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Karnataka leads with 5,880 EV charging stations

BENGALURU
Karnataka has emerged as a front-runner in India's electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, boasting the highest number of public charging stations among tier-1 cities. » PAGE 8

'Strict action if anything is amiss'

BENGALURU
Minister M.C. Sudhakar on Friday said strict action will be taken against officials alleged to have forced two CET students to remove their 'Janivara' if the incidents are proven to be true. » PAGE 5

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 9

Rubio hints at U.S. exit if Ukraine peace deal stalls

After Paris talks, U.S. Secretary of State warns time is running out for an agreement; final decision expected 'within days'; he recalls that it's not America's war and it has other priorities to address

Associated Press
PARIS

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Friday that the U.S. may "move on" from trying to secure a Russia-Ukraine peace deal if there is no progress in the coming days, after months of efforts have failed to bring an end to the fighting.

He spoke in Paris after landmark talks among U.S., Ukrainian and European officials produced outlines for steps toward peace and appeared to make some long-awaited progress. A new meeting is expected next week in London, and Mr. Rubio suggested that could be decisive in determining if the Trump administration continues its involvement.

Marco Rubio (R) with Britain's Foreign Secretary David Lammy and French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot in Paris on Thursday. AP

"We are now reaching a point where we need to decide whether this is even possible or not," Mr. Rubio told reporters. "Because if it's not, then I think we're just going to move on. It's not our war. We have other priorities to focus on."

He said the U.S. administration wants to decide "in a matter of days".

Mr. Rubio's comments stepped up pressure on both sides to reach a peace deal, even as the U.S. and Ukraine made progress on a minerals agreement that Mr. Trump has sought to recoup billions of dollars in military aid that Washington sent Kyiv since Russia's invasion in February 2022.

Immediately after Mr. Rubio's comments, a Kremlin spokesperson said in Moscow that a 30-day pause on Ukrainian energy site strikes, which President Vladimir Putin announced after U.S.-Russia talks began, has expired.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

74 killed in U.S. attack on Yemen, say Houthis

Agence France-Presse
HODEIDA

U.S. strikes on a Yemeni fuel port killed at least 74 people, Houthi rebels said on Friday, in the deadliest attack of Washington's 15-month campaign against the Iran-backed group.

The strikes on Ras Issa aimed at cutting off supplies and funds for the rebels that control large swathes of Yemen, the U.S. military said.

Images broadcast by a Houthi-run television station showed large blazes lighting up the night sky.

Houthi health ministry spokesman Anees Alasbahi said rescuers were still searching for victims at the fuel port on the Red Sea.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

India slams Dhaka's 'disingenuous' call on Indian Muslims

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India on Friday hit back at Bangladesh after the press secretary of Chief Advisor Prof. Mohammed Yunus called upon India to protect rights of minority Muslim population and refuted allegations of involvement of citizens of Bangladesh in the anti-Waqf Act violence in Murshidabad in West Bengal.

A statement from the External Affairs Ministry further raised the issue of protection of minority communities in Bangladesh.

"This is a barely disguised and disingenuous attempt to draw a parallel with India's concerns over the ongoing persecution of minorities in Bangladesh where the criminal perpetrators of such acts continue to roam free. Instead of making unwarranted comments and indulging in virtue signalling, Bangladesh would do better to focus on protecting the rights of its own minorities," stated the External Affairs Ministry.

On Thursday, Shafiqul Alam, the press secretary to Prof. Yunus had refuted allegations from the Indian side about the involvement of Bangladeshi citizens in the violence in Murshidabad that flared up over the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

KEA to bar candidates who get seats in prestigious medical and technical institutions from CET counselling

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) has decided to bar Karnataka domicile students who have secured seats in prestigious medical institutions under the national quota through National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) or got admission in technical institutes including IITs through the Join Entrance Examination (JEE) from taking Common Entrance Test (CET-2025) counselling.

It has decided to keep a watch on those who, after getting good ranks in the CET, try to get admission in other allied health sciences courses, including nursing, in the first two rounds of counselling and then try to get government quota engineering seats in prestigious private engineering colleges during the final round of counselling.

"A separate cell will be set up headed by the administrative officer of KEA to monitor Karnataka domicile candidates who secure engineering seats in IITs, NITK-Suratkal and IISc-Bangalore and others through JEE (Mains and Advanced) ranks and securing 15% national quota seats in the National Medical Institutes through NEET ranking," said H. Prasanna, Executive Director of KEA.

The alleged engineering seat blocking scam of 2024-25 had created a stir in the State. Some had misused the IP addresses of students and blocked engineering seats in prestigious private colleges. Investigations found that the IP addresses of about 2,350 students who had appeared in the CET exam were misused. Most of these IP addresses belonged to students who had secured good ranks in the JEE and got admissions in prestigious institutions. Police inquries are still on.

"Investigations revealed that colleges themselves set up helpdesks to submit the CET application. They were handling the IP addresses, login IDs and passwords of students. However, parents told us that after getting seats in national institutions, the students did not actually participate in CET counselling," he said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Pride and love

Mom on duty: A new recruit of the Jammu and Kashmir Police with her child after the passing out parade in Manigam, about 34 km north east of Srinagar, on Friday. A total of 338 recruits were inducted into the force upon completion of one year of rigorous training. IMRAN NISSAR

Stalin hits back at Modi over 'crying for funds' remark

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Friday reminded Prime Minister Narendra Modi of his statements as Gujarat Chief Minister over fund appropriation from the Union government.

He also asked whether Union Home Minister Amit Shah could guarantee that delimitation would not reduce Tamil Nadu's representation, exempt the State from the ambit of NEET, and assure that Hindi would not be imposed.

At a government function held at Ponneri in Tiruvallur district, the DMK president recalled Mr. Modi's comments during his recent visit to Rameswaram that those in Tamil Nadu were "crying" for funds.

"What did he say? Whatever is given, those here are crying [for funds]. He is saying we are crying irrespective of whatever they give us," Mr. Stalin said. "With complete humility and respect, I want to remind the Prime Minister that it was you who had said the States are not beggars to importune the Union government for funds. I am only reminding you," he said.

Recalling more statements, Mr. Stalin said, "What did you speak when you were the Gujarat Chief Minister? That they were running a parallel government through Governors? Who said it then? Mr. Modi said it when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat. He said the Union government was partisan in allocating funds to States run by [Opposition] parties."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

KSRTC to roll out real-time bus tracking system soon

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

In a major move towards improving public transport experience, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) will soon launch a real-time vehicle tracking system. Beginning June, commuters will be able to track the movement of over 8,000 KSRTC buses using a newly developed mobile application.

This project, known as the Vehicle Tracking and Monitoring System (VTMS), aims to enhance transparency and reliability in bus operations. Commuters will be able to view live locations of buses, plan their journeys better, and reduce uncertainty during long waits at bus stops—especially in cities and rural parts of Karnataka.

According to a senior KSRTC official, the entire fleet will be fitted with high-tech tracking devices. FILE PHOTO

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said that the new system would benefit lakhs of passengers each day. "This is particularly helpful for those using shuttle services within city limits as well as those waiting for rural buses. Passengers will be able to see exactly where the bus is and how long it will take to reach them," he said.

Highlighting KSRTC integrating technology in transport services, Mr. Reddy added, "KSRTC has always taken the lead in adopting innovative solutions. The VTMS is part of our larger plan to incorporate IT into all aspects of public transport operations."

According to a senior KSRTC official, the entire fleet will be fitted with high-tech tracking devices. These buses will be integrated with VTMS and will include Vehicle Location Tracking Devices (VLTD) along with emergency alert buttons. "Each bus will have a device that relays its real-time location to a central control system. A mobile application being developed will allow passengers to track this live feed easily," the official explained.

The VTMS rollout will also involve the installation of advanced onboard units in buses. The official noted that 1,286 buses, along with 50 electric buses already fitted with AIS 140 (Automotive Industry Standard) compliant systems. A dedicated command and control centre will oversee fleet movement and respond to incidents, ensuring efficient and safe operations.

"The system leverages a mix of Global Positioning System (GPS), Information and Communication Technology (ICT), data analytics, and mobile platforms. The integration will allow for continuous data flow and monitoring, making bus operations more predictable and secure," official said.

Interestingly, KSRTC studied Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited's (HPCL) real-time truck tracking model as part of its research for developing this project.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Karnataka will enact 'Rohith Vemula Act', says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has assured that his government will enact 'Rohith Vemula Act', a law to be framed and enacted to eliminate caste- and identity-based discrimination in educational institutions.

Responding to former Congress president Rahul Gandhi's letter dated April 16 on the social media platform X, urging the Karnataka government to enact "Rohith Vemula Act" to ensure that no one faces caste-based discrimination in the education system, the Chief Minister said his government stands firm in its resolve to enact such a law.

In a post on X, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "Our government stands firm in its resolve to enact the Rohith Vemula Act in Karnataka – to ensure no student faces discrimination based on caste, class, or religion. We will bring this legislation at the earliest to honour the dreams of Rohith, Payal, Darshan, and countless others who deserved dignity, not exclusion."

In his letter to Mr. Siddaramaiah, Mr. Rahul Gandhi urged the Karnataka government to enact the "Rohith Vemula Act."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

Eternal bond stretched: for how much longer can CSK be Dhoni and Dhoni CSK?

The magical symbiosis between icon and franchise has produced five IPL titles, an enduring cultural impact and significant economic success. But while his wicketkeeping and captaincy remain sharp, Dhoni — now 43 and on dodgy knees — is struggling to summon his batting powers as often as he once did

GETTY IMAGES

In all this focus on Dhoni, it is a fact that the CSK bowlers have bled and its batters have lacked thrust. But since Dhoni is seen as this conjurer of miracles, the scrutiny narrows in on him

Having retired from Tests in 2014, and from ODIs and T20Is in 2020, Dhoni has stretched his IPL career from 2008 to 2025. In terms of longevity, he remains an outlier at 43. This season, however, the odd remark against him has been aired

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

'Vandharai vazhaveikkum Chennai' is a popular saying in Tamil. Elaborately translated, it means a Chennai that helps every visitor find a life. At times, the nomenclature Chennai is replaced with Tamil Nadu, just to reflect a State that has welcomed diverse communities to its shores, plains and hills.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni neatly ties into this overwhelming socio-anthropological narrative. Earlier, it was Shivaji Rao Gaekwad, famously known as Rajinikanth, who blended in. One a cricketer from Ranchi; the other a superstar, a Marathi with deep roots in Bengaluru. 'Dhoni and Rajini' sounds like a rhyme and slots into the Tamil language's tonality.

Sense of ownership

There is a sense of ownership that fans in Chennai, and Tamil Nadu at large, exude towards their favourite icons. Years ago, Kamal Haasan emphatically said this about the great actor and comedian, Nagesh: "His roots may be Kannadiga, but he is ours, we won't give him up." If Kamal can say such a thing, you can imagine the random fan's affection for his or her idol!

Truly, the macroscopic index highlights an indulgence towards the outsider, who then becomes a quintessential insider. Dhoni sails in that boat. Sport takes an athlete to various stages, largely a theatre of love where fine skills garner adulation irrespective of place of origin, accent, dialect, religion and bank-balance.

The symbiosis that Dhoni and Chennai share is unique. There was Lionel Messi and Barcelona. Yet at some point the great Argentine footballer moved on from FC Barcelona. Dhoni may not speak Tamil while Messi speaks Spanish, the language of the street in Barcelona and Buenos Aires, and yet the ties that bind Dhoni and Chennai through the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) connection are mighty strong.

If Virat Kohli and Royal Challengers Bengaluru have remained fused right from the maiden Indian Premier League in 2008, Dhoni's umbilical cord with CSK was once nipped briefly. The spot-fixing and betting scandal in 2013 and the subsequent inquiry led to the suspension of CSK during the 2016 and 2017 seasons.

To be fair to Dhoni and his teammates, none of them were tainted with any whiff of corruption, but the franchise had to pay a price for the foibles of Gurunath Meiyappan, a key member in the franchise's structure. Dhoni then turned out for Rising Pune Supergiant. But once the hiatus was lifted, he promptly returned to CSK in the 2018 season and won the championship.

In Tamil Nadu, where pop culture references mine the great comeback stories on celluloid, it was time to draw Dhoni into this world of hope, laughter and redemption. He became this messiah, doing the impossible, clouting helicopter sixes and winning titles, five at that.

Sporting and commercial colossus

This is a back-story that strengthened the Dhoni brand and stretched it towards the stratosphere from the Coromandel Coast. The fact that he led India to titles in the 2007 ICC World T20, 2011 World Cup and 2013 Champions Trophy, all combined together to shape a sporting colossus gaining attention from corporates, brands and advertising firms.

In the commercial terrain of Indian cricket, the brand-equity that Sachin Tendulkar had was passed on to Dhoni and now this monetary heft resides with Kohli. But in the microscopic gaze centred on CSK, Dhoni is the all-pervading magnet. Decades ago, the Congress party had coined this slogan: "India is Indira, Indira is India." It was an over-the-top tribute to late Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi. A cricketing equivalent would be: "CSK is Dhoni, Dhoni is CSK."

This seemingly eternal bond, besides the cultural increments that Dhoni has reaped from Tamil Nadu's landscape, has also left CSK blinkered towards its leading star. Dhoni is 43 now, has dodgy knees despite a corrective surgery, and coach Stephen Fleming himself admitted that the former India captain cannot be sprinting at full tilt for more than 10 overs while batting.

Having retired from Tests in 2014, and from ODIs and T20Is in 2020, Dhoni has stretched his IPL career from 2008 to 2025. When the mid-to-late-thirties syndrome has caught up with Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja, Dhoni remains an outlier at 43. In the longevity sweepstakes, he and England's James Anderson have carved out a unique path. The latter is still doing the rounds for Lancashire.

This season, however, the odd stray remark against Dhoni has been aired. Perhaps it forced Fleming to step out with his caveat. The lightning wicketkeeping reflexes behind the crease are still intact. But Dhoni's primary card, besides his captaincy, has been his muscular batting.

Over the last few seasons, that ability has been revealed only in micro-cameos, if such a word can be used. In CSK's recent clash against Lucknow Super Giants, Dhoni's unbeaten 11-ball 26 sealed the game for his side. However, these knocks are becoming fewer and far between. Yes, he can clout mighty sixes, and, back as skipper after an injury ruled Ruturaj Gaikwad out, Dhoni remains mentally agile.

Yet, Father Time has a way of getting even. Recent clips of Dhoni limping a bit set X (formerly Twitter) abuzz. It doesn't help that CSK has had a poor start and even its fortress at Chennai, the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, has been breached. Leading and keeping for 20 overs and perhaps being able to bat for about 10 overs is now seen as the Dhoni template. And that would mean the other CSK players have to step up.

The ageism debate

In all this focus on Dhoni, it is a fact that the CSK bowlers have bled and its batters, especially the middle-order, have lacked thrust. But since Dhoni is seen as this conjurer of miracles, the scrutiny narrows in on him. It also triggers the ageism debate. The number 43 looms big and then the question arises: for how long?

There is the added economic query, as many brands ride piggyback on the afterglow that Dhoni bequeaths to CSK. Besides the cricket on offer, IPL is also seen as an investment venture for corporates and actors. Many years ago, when a franchise broke the bank for an ageing Yuvraj Singh, it was a decision largely governed by the pull he had on brands.

Very few legends in Indian cricket have bowed out at the apt time. Kapil Dev stretched his finish line and so did Tendulkar. For Dhoni and CSK, the threads that link them are incredibly strong, but in the rough world of sport and performance-metrics, sentiment may not entirely present a strong argument. But like turning throats hoarse for a Rajini flick in the theatres, cheering for Dhoni is a Chennai habit.

The last word would obviously belong to him, and it would be secretive.

His Test retirement was a BCCI note, his overall India retirement was an Instagram post! CSK's yellow brigade might say that's his style. If ever there was a fandom that bordered on blind affection, this is it. It is also the cultural angle, as the outsider is now the insider.

The threads that bind Dhoni and CSK are very strong. Like turning throats hoarse for a Rajini flick in the theatres, cheering for Dhoni is a Chennai habit

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	23	9,930	15
2	Carlos Alcaraz	21	7,720	19
3	Alexander Zverev	27	7,595	22
4	Taylor Fritz	27	5,280	21
5	Novak Djokovic	37	4,120	19
6	Jack Draper	23	3,870	20
7	Alex de Minaur	26	3,535	23
8	Andrey Rublev	27	3,490	28
9	Daniil Medvedev	29	3,290	20
10	Casper Ruud	26	3,215	24
11	Lorenzo Musetti	23	3,200	24
12	Tommy Paul	27	3,160	21
13	Holger Rune	21	3,080	23
14	Arthur Fils	20	2,820	23
15	Ben Shelton	22	2,700	24

Top Indians

Sumit Nagal
Rank 171 ▼ 27 spots

Mukund Sasikumar
Rank 455 ▲ 4 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	26	10,541	20
2	Iga Swiatek	23	7,470	17
3	Jessica Pegula	31	6,101	18
4	Coco Gauff	21	6,063	21
5	Madison Keys	30	4,999	19
6	Jasmine Paolini	29	4,843	18
7	Mirra Andreeva	17	4,775	18
8	Qinwen Zheng	22	4,243	20
9	Paula Badosa	27	3,821	22
10	Elena Rybakina	25	3,808	19
11	Emma Navarro	23	3,797	25
12	Karolina Muchova	28	2,919	17
13	Diana Shnaider	21	2,913	28
14	Daria Kasatkina	27	2,741	24
15	Barbora Krejcikova	29	2,675	15

Top Indians

Ankita Raina
Rank 304 ▲▼ No change

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 318 ▼ 2 spots

F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	Lando Norris	McLaren	77	1
2	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	74	2
3	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	69	1
4	George Russell	Mercedes	63	0
5	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	32	0
6	Kimi Antonelli	Mercedes	32	0
7	Lewis Hamilton	Ferrari	25	0
8	Alexander Albon	Williams	18	0
9	Esteban Ocon	Haas	14	0
10	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	10	0
11	Pierre Gasly	Alpine	6	0
12	Nico Hulkenberg	Sauber	6	0
13	Oliver Bearman	Haas	6	0
14	Yuki Tsunoda	Red Bull	5	0
15	Isack Hadjar	Racing Bulls	4	0
16	Carlos Sainz	Williams	1	0
17	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin	0	0
18	Liam Lawson	Racing Bulls	0	0
19	Jack Doohan	Alpine	0	0
20	Gabriel Bortoleto	Sauber	0	0

Lando Norris

Oscar Piastri

F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	McLaren	151	3
2	Mercedes	93	0
3	Red Bull	71	1
4	Ferrari	57	0
5	Haas	20	0
6	Williams	19	0
7	Aston Martin	10	0
8	RB	7	0
9	Alpine	6	0
10	Kick Sauber	6	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Shi Yu Qi	99,435	13
2	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	89,138	17
3	Anders Antonsen	87,693	19
4	Viktor Axelsen	87,610	13
5	Li Shi Feng	81,656	18
6	Jonatan Christie	81,327	16
7	Chou Tien Chen	76,157	23
8	Kodai Naraoka	75,387	20
9	Lee Zii Jia	73,665	14
10	Alex Lanier	70,671	17
11	Loh Kean Yew	62,299	20
12	Weng Hong Yang	61,767	16
13	Kenta Nishimoto	61,603	22
14	Lu Guang Zu	60,905	19
15	Chia Hao Lee	59,408	22

Top Indians

Lakshya Sen
Rank 18

H. S. Prannoy
Rank 30

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	An Se Young	1,12,867	11
2	Wang Zhi Yi	98,315	18
3	Han Yue	83,909	19
4	Akane Yamaguchi	79,967	12
5	Gregoria Mariska Tunjung	79,082	17
6	Pornpawee Chochuwong	70,778	22
7	Chen Yu Fei	69,882	9
8	Tomoka Miyazaki	68,271	20
9	Supanida Katethong	67,264	15
10	Busanan Ongbamrungphan	62,460	18
11	Putri Kusuma Wardani	61,627	18
12	Yeo Jia Min	61,583	17
13	Ratchanok Intanon	61,413	19
14	Gao Fang Jie	61,050	13
15	Sim Yu Jin	57,780	15

Top Indians

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 18

Malvika Bansod
Rank 22

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	895	932
2	Harry Brook	876	898
3	Kane Williamson	867	919
4	Yashasvi Jaiswal	847	854
5	Steve Smith	823	947
6	Temba Bavuma	769	769
7	Kamindu Mendis	761	779
8	Travis Head	748	884
9	Usman Khawaja	739	847
9	Rishabh Pant	739	801

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	908	908
2	Kagiso Rabada	837	902
3	Pat Cummins	824	914
4	Josh Hazlewood	818	864
5	Nathan Lyon	812	812
6	Noman Ali	806	806
7	Marco Jansen	785	803
8	Matt Henry	782	782
9	Prabath Jayasuriya	751	801
10	Ravindra Jadeja	745	899

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Shubman Gill	784	847
2	Babar Azam	766	898
3	Rohit Sharma	756	882
4	Heinrich Klaasen	744	760
5	Virat Kohli	736	909
6	Daryl Mitchell	720	750
7	Harry Tector	713	767
8	Shreyas Iyer	704	710
9	Charith Asalanka	694	694
10	Ibrahim Zadran	676	693

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Maheesh Theekshana	680	686
2	Kuldeep Yadav	650	761
3	Keshav Maharaj	648	741
4	Bernard Scholtz	644	648
5	Rashid Khan	640	799
6	Mitchell Santner	637	657
7	Gudakesh Motie	632	639
8	Matt Henry	622	691
9	Ravindra Jadeja	616	733
10	Adam Zampa	614	699

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Travis Head	856	885
2	Abhishek Sharma	829	829
3	Philip Salt	815	881
4	Tilak Varma	804	845
5	Suryakumar Yadav	739	912
6	Jos Buttler	735	756
7	Pathum Nissanka	714	722
8	Tim Seifert	708	708
9	Babar Azam	688	900
10	Kusal Perera	676	786

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jacob Duffy	723	723
2	Akeal Hosein	707	714
3	Varun Chakravarthy	706	706
4	Adil Rashid	705	747
5	Wanindu Hasaranga	700	809
6	Adam Zampa	694	746
7	Ravi Bishnoi	674	707
8	Maheesh Theekshana	666	686
9	Rashid Khan	664	828
10	Arshdeep Singh	653	679

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GETTY IMAGES

Will the attainment of golfing immortality set Rory McIlroy free?

The 35-year-old became just the sixth man in history to win the career Grand Slam, ending years of torment when he finally claimed the Masters. Will the triumph liberate him or will it diminish the desire that has driven him to pursue Major titles despite suffering heartbreaks?

Reuters
Associated Press

Chasing dreams can be exhausting. Especially when they contain within them the promise of fulfilment or completion, and seem to remain just out of reach. For Rory McIlroy, the dream of winning the Masters on Augusta's magical greens – and completing the career Grand Slam – had begun to assume the proportions of an anxiety-inducing nightmare.

McIlroy knew exactly what a triumph would signify: the famed green jacket was all that separated him from golfing immortality, only tasted by Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods. But the closer he came to fulfilling his lifetime dream, the more it kept slipping away. In 2011 at the Masters, when McIlroy had the world at his feet, a four-shot lead and one arm in a green jacket, he contrived to throw it away with an 80 in the final round.

Close calls

McIlroy continued to endure years of close calls, finishing in the top five on four occasions at Augusta. Finally, on his 17th attempt playing the Masters – the 11th time with the Grand Slam at stake – the long and winding road to golfing immortality led to salvation. The green jacket is a size 38, draped on the shoulders of the first European to win all four Majors.

> I started to wonder if it would ever be my time. It's so hard to keep coming back every year, trying your best and not being able to get it done

The 35-year-old, who previously claimed the US Open (2011), the PGA Championship (2012, 2014) and the Open Championship (2014), earned his reward for stubbornly persevering.

"I started to wonder if it would ever be my time," the Northern Irishman said. "I think the last 10 years coming here with the burden of the Grand Slam on my shoulders and trying to achieve that – yeah, I'm sort of wondering what we're all going to talk about going into next year's Masters. A moment like that makes all the years and all the close calls worth it.

"You have to be the eternal optimist in this game. I've been saying it until I'm blue in the face. I truly believe I'm better now than I was 10 years ago. It's so hard to stay patient. It's so hard to keep coming back every year, trying your best and not being able to get it done. It's the best day of my golfing life. I'm very proud of myself for never giving up and always fighting back."

Last Sunday at Augusta felt like a microcosm of McIlroy's last 11 years at the Majors, blunders mixed in with sheer brilliance. What could have been a coronation along the back nine turned into a heart-racing, lead-changing, jaw-dropping finish at golf's greatest theatre.

A two-shot lead gone in two holes. A four-shot lead gone in three holes with a shocker. A five-foot putt on the final hole to win narrowly missed. And then McIlroy turned what could have been another Major collapse into his grandest moment of all when he hit wedge to three feet for birdie in a sudden-death playoff against Justin Rose before sobbing with joy and disbelief.

It was an astonishing display of grit, of picking himself up every time the pressure got to him. He was resilient as ever – he has been like that his entire career, from his time as a precocious prodigy to all his years of frustration at the Majors.

Response to setbacks

A measure of how well McIlroy handled his frailties can be had from the fact that he became the first player to win the Masters with four double bogeys, two of them coming on Sunday. "I didn't make it easy," he said. "I was nervous. It was one of the toughest days I've ever had in golf. I just think all week how I responded to setbacks, that's what I'll take from this week."

McIlroy has been working with a sports psychologist to focus on himself and not spend any energy engaging with what his rivals are doing. He has also consistently reminded himself that golf is a game of mistakes; being comfortable with that – instead of seeking perfection – has helped him react better to errors and bounce back mentally.

The triumph reinforced McIlroy's belief that dreams are worth striving for. As he told his daughter Poppy after the win, "Never give up on your dreams. Never, ever give up on your dreams."

It was a famous victory, with tributes pouring in from around the world of sport and popular culture. Woods welcomed him to the club. Tommy Fleetwood described his Ryder Cup teammate's win as "possibly the greatest mentally resilient achievement ever in our sport."

England's three-time Masters champion Nick Faldo said McIlroy's victory had topped Woods' in 2019, when the American won his fifth green jacket by one stroke after fighting back from injury. "For a man to do that after what he went through for 11 years – Rory is a legend now," said Faldo. "He is 35 years old and a legend. How about that?"

> You have to be the eternal optimist in this game. I've been saying it until I'm blue in the face. I truly believe I'm better now than I was 10 years ago

It will be interesting to see how the victory affects McIlroy. Will it liberate him or will it reduce his motivation? Six-time Masters champion Nicklaus, whom McIlroy had lunch with in the lead-up to Augusta when they went over how to play the course, believes it will be a case of the former. "It'll take the world off his shoulders and you're now going to see a lot more of really good golf out of Rory McIlroy," said Nicklaus.

McIlroy agreed, telling the *BBC* that "getting the Masters, the career Grand Slam, the fifth Major, getting all that out of the way... I think it will allow me to play with a lot more freedom."

Although it is possible that the achievement of a lifelong ambition will diminish the competitive fires, it's worth remembering that McIlroy went 11 long years without any Major. The desire to make up for 'lost' time, especially when he is in a good moment, cannot be discounted. Besides, he is only 35. Even if there is a drop-off, there is plenty of time for another tilt at the Majors.

What's next

There is not long to wait. With three Majors still to be played over the next three months, fans will soon get to see how the Masters triumph has impacted McIlroy in the short term. He will play the PGA Championship in May and the US Open in June before travelling home to Northern Ireland for a very special edition of the British Open, the year's last Major.

Royal Portrush will host the event in July marking only the third time that the course in Northern Ireland has had that honour after 1951 and 2019. Royal Portrush is located about an hour's drive from McIlroy's hometown of Holywood. McIlroy's 61 at age 16 in the 2005 North of Ireland championship still stands as the old course record at Royal Portrush.

"I can't wait to go back to Portrush in July with this [the Masters title] in tow," he said. "I'm very proud of where I'm from and every time I go back I realise that more and more."

GAME THEORY

Top shot-stoppers in **Bundesliga 2024-25**

We take a look at how often goalkeepers in Germany's top flight have saved shots on target and kept clean sheets so far this season

Goalkeeper	Club	Games	Shots on target faced	Saves	Save%	Clean sheets	Clean sheet %
Finn Dahmen	Augsburg	14	55	49	87.3	8	57.1
Moritz Nicolas	Gladbach	19	92	69	78.3	4	21.1
Robin Zentner	Mainz	29	128	93	75.8	9	31.0
Peter Gulacsi	Leipzig	27	123	87	73.2	13	48.1
Lukas Hradecky	Leverkusen	26	102	74	72.5	6	23.1
Kevin Trapp	E. Frankfurt	21	106	75	71.7	4	19.0
Frederik Ronnow	U. Berlin	24	90	61	71.1	8	33.3
Nikola Vasilj	St. Pauli	29	115	78	70.4	8	27.6
Noah Atubolu	Freiburg	24	111	76	70.3	10	41.7
Kamil Grabara	Wolfsburg	24	113	73	66.4	4	16.7
Oliver Baumann	Hoffenheim	24	114	72	65.8	4	16.7
Kevin Muller	Heidenheim	29	147	91	65.3	6	20.7
Gregor Kobel	Dortmund	27	109	68	65.1	5	18.5
Alexander Nubel	Stuttgart	29	123	77	64.2	5	17.2
Manuel Neuer	Bayern	20	37	22	62.2	11	55.0
Michael Zetterer	Werder	29	131	80	61.1	7	24.1
Nediljko Labrovic	Augsburg	15	74	42	60.8	2	13.3
Timon Weiner	Holstein	25	140	81	59.3	2	8.0
Patrick Drewes	Bochum	21	99	51	56.6	2	9.5

Finn Dahmen

Moritz Nicolas

Robin Zentner

Peter Gulacsi

Source: FBref.com

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Back on red earth

Nothing says 'It's clay season' quite like the sight of the Monte-Carlo Country Club, backdropped by the breathtaking Mediterranean.

Laid out over more than three hectares, the 21 clay courts — harmoniously arranged in tiers facing the sea — welcome the world's best male players every year to the first of three ATP Masters 1000 tournaments played on dirt.

The tournament is both a player- and fan-favourite. A marriage of tradition and beauty, with a history dating back to the late 1890s, the Monte-Carlo Masters ushers in the European clay season, presenting the first opportunity for the players to swing, surf and shine in the dirt.

For the tournament, the otherwise-exclusive Principality, inhabited by the rich and the famous, throws open its doors to the world. Interestingly, the glamorous venue — despite its name — is located in France (Roquebrune-Cap-Martin), just 150 meters outside Monaco's northeastern border.

Rafael Nadal won a record 11 titles at this event. The man many consider his successor on clay, Carlos Alcaraz, claimed this year's trophy.

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‘Janivara’ row: Sudhakar says strict action will be taken if charges are found to be true

Two students – one in Bidar and another in Shivamogga – writing CET were allegedly forced by the exam centre officials to remove their ‘*janivara*’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar on Friday said strict action would be taken against the officials who are alleged to have forced two students in Bidar and Shivamogga, who were writing their Common Entrance Test (CET), to remove their ‘Janivara’ (consecrated threads worn by members of certain communities), if the incidents are proven to be true.

M.C. Sudhakar

A student from Bidar alleged that on Thursday, he was not allowed to take his mathematics exam as he refused to take off his ‘Janivara’ as per the instructions of the officials at the examination centre. He said that while he was allowed to write the Physics and Chemistry papers on April 16 and even the Biology paper on April 17 while wearing the ‘Janivara’, he was not allowed to write his Mathematics paper.

In Shivamogga, another student has alleged that his ‘Janivara’ was cut off by the examination centre officials after he refused to take it off on Wednesday. The members of Karnataka Brahmanara Mahasabha and other Brahmin outfits have expressed their anger over the alleged incident by lodging a complaint with the Deputy Commissioner.

Full report sought

Speaking to reporters about the incidents, Mr. Sudhakar said, “I condemn the incident. I have asked the Executive Director of Karnataka Examinations Authority for a complete report, and he informed that the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Shivamogga has denied the allegations.”

He added, “As these incidents have occurred only in two centres and nowhere else in the State, we can conclude that this is not in the KEA’s protocol. We respect the customs and practices of all castes and religions and we never encourage such behaviour.”

The Minister also said that a solution would be devised for the student from Bidar who could not write his Mathematics exam if the allegations are proven true.

“We are aware that his future is dependent on this, and after I get a report, I will discuss this with officials. We have never given retests to an individual student before,” Mr. Sudhakar said.

Minister of School Education and the district incharge Minister of Shivamogga, Madhu Banagarappa, directed the Deputy Commissioner to immediately suspend the officials who are allegedly responsible for the incident. Following this, Shivamogga DC Gurudatta Hegade has recommended disciplinary action against a Home Guard posted at the exam centre, based on the preliminary report about the incident.

KSCPCR registers *suo motu* case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has registered a *suo motu* case in the ‘janivara row’ related to the Common Entrance Test (CET) which was conducted across the State between April 15 and 17.

Shashidhar Kosambe, a member of KSCPCR, visited the house of the student from Bidar district who alleged that he was not allowed to write the mathematics paper after he refused to take it off.

“We have also sent notices to the officials concerned, recommending stringent action against them. We will also write to the Higher Education Department to permit the boy to write the examination again,” Mr. Mosambe said. The Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA), which conducts CET, has sought detailed reports from the district administrations of Bidar and Shivamogga, where the incidents have been alleged to occur. “It was not mentioned in the dress code that the Janivara could not be worn. We condemn these actions and we will take strict action,” said H. Prasanna, executive director, KEA.

Meanwhile, the Opposition BJP has condemned the incidents. “The anti-Hindu attitude of the Congress government headed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has permeated all departments of the establishment,” Chief Whip of the Opposition in the State Legislative Council N. Ravi Kumar alleged.

Govt. schools in State get facelift under ‘School Bell’ initiative

Chandan M. Naik
BENGALURU

Yuvaka Sangha, a Bengaluru-based youth organisation with its volunteer group, has given a facelift to 360 government school buildings across Karnataka under its unique ‘School Bell’ initiative. Under this initiative, the volunteers paint the walls of schools with art inspired by themes of STEM, environmental conservation, health and hygiene awareness, patriotism, and other themes from the students’ curriculum.

Under this initiative, volunteers paint the walls of schools with art inspired by themes including, themes of STEM, environmental conservation among others from the students’ curriculum.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Typically, around 45 volunteers, consisting of students and other youngsters, of which 5 are the organising committee, work on painting one school. While the estimated cost is ₹50,000 to ₹60,000 per school, expenses vary depending on the school’s size and number of classrooms.

Speaking about the work, project director Guru Prasad said, “For instance, Nali Kali classrooms (Nursery, LKG, UKG) are adorned with vibrant, colourful artwork, while higher-grade classrooms focus on curriculum concepts and awareness-oriented themes. There’s no specific reason behind the art; our goal is to create a positive and engaging learning environment in government schools. Parents used to complain that the schools were unhygienic and looked scary, which inspired us to take up this refurbishment initiative.”

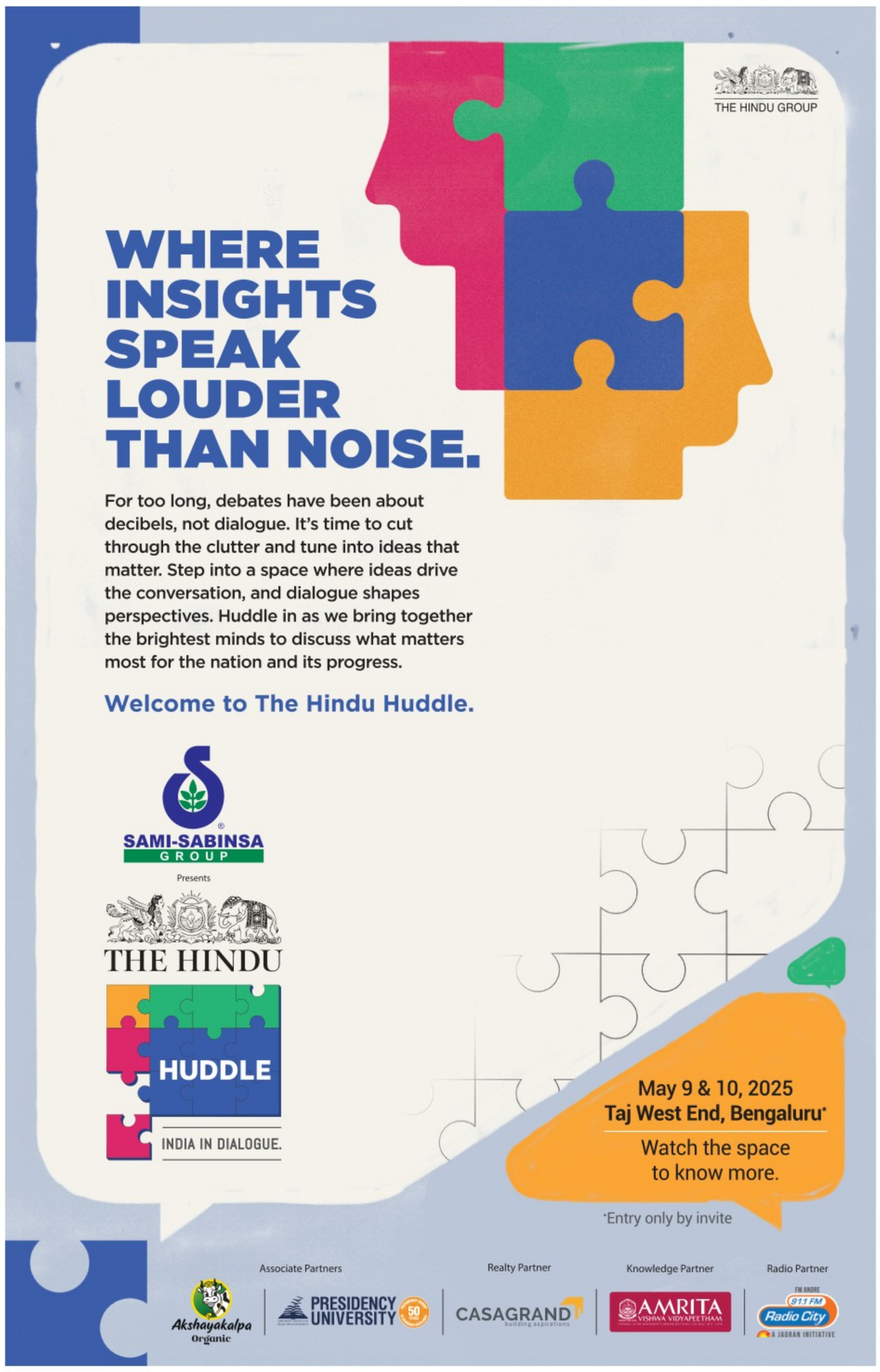
He also said that the refurbishment of each school takes around two days generally. “Before selecting a school, we conduct a survey that assesses the number of classrooms, the number of students who have dropped out, and the current student enrolment, allowing us to make an informed choice. As School Bell is recognized across the State, principals and teachers reach out to us to refurbish their schools,” Mr. Prasad said.

The staff at schools are also appreciative of the effort believe that such projects help in increasing enrolment.

“A good atmosphere fosters a strong learning environment,” said Suresh, Principal of Karnataka Public School in Attiguppe, Bengaluru. “Such efforts will attract more students to government schools and enrich their learning experience,” he added.

Yuvaka Sangha has partnered with organisations like National Service Scheme (NSS), the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) along with a few corporate companies for the initiative.

“We are now gearing up for a massive camp this April, where we will refurbish 35 government schools across Karnataka,” Mr. Prasad said.



SHRC holds two policemen guilty of harassing rape survivor's mother

'The accused officials violated guidelines at every level despite strict guidelines from the HC on handling POCSO Act cases'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) recently held two police sub-inspectors guilty of handling a gang rape case of a minor girl in a careless manner and harassing her mother. The commission slapped a fine of ₹50,000 on each of them to be recovered from their salaries and to be paid to the girl as compensation.

The two, along with the station in charge, were guilty of violating the POCSO Act, 2012, but the charges against the inspector have been dropped. The survivor, aged around 13, was living with her paternal grandmother in Chelur police station limits in Bagepalli, Chickballapur district, while her mother worked in Bengaluru at a private firm.

The incident occurred in January 2023 when two boys, both juveniles and related to the girl, impregnated her. The grandmother, who came to know about the incident, took her to the hospital in February for an abortion without informing the mother or the police.

The commission slaps a fine of ₹50,000 on each of them to be recovered from their salaries and to be paid to the girl as compensation. GETTY IMAGES

It has also recommended to conduct a departmental inquiry for further action against the guilty

The mother who came to know about the incident rushed to the hospital, created a ruckus, and brought the girl to the police station to file a complaint. The sub-inspectors, Harish and Papanna, who despite receiving the complaint, delayed registering an FIR and also kept the survivor at the station the whole day on the pretext of inquiry, the SHRC has now found. The mother was sent back, asking her to come the next day, following which she checked into a lodge near the police station. Even though it was a POCSO case, violating the guidelines, the next day, the two policemen summoned the accused to the station and conducted an inquiry of both the survivor and the accused face-to-face in full uniform. The two officers summoned the family members of the accused, threatened and humiliated the complainant forcing her to drop the complaint.

An FIR was registered only after the case was brought to the notice of their seniors. Only due to persistent follow-up did the police finally register the FIR, detain the accused, and send them to the State Home for Boys, the SHRC said. Even the inspector did not follow due diligence and admitted the girl to a private hospital overnight instead of sending her to the government home for girls and getting her medical examination, it observed. Unable to bear the harassment, the girl's mother filed a complaint with the SHRC.

Taking cognisance of the case, the SHRC officials verified the records and questioned the accused to record their statements. The inquiry found that despite strict guidelines from the High Court of Karnataka on handling POCSO Act cases, the accused officials violated the guidelines at every level to help the accused and their family members.

Taking cognisance of this inquiry report, the SHRC has found the two officials guilty and slapped a fine of ₹50,000 on the sub-inspector, Papanna, who has retired from service, and Harish, who is presently serving in the Chelur police station, to be recovered from their salaries and benefits. The commission has also recommended to conduct a departmental inquiry for further action against the guilty.

2 die in lightning strike in Raichur dist.

The Hindu Bureau
YADGIR

Two persons, including a woman, and three livestock died in different lightning incidents in Raichur district on Friday.

Hanumanth Yadav of Marchatahal village and Mallamma of Udamgal-Khanapur village in Raichur taluk died. A cow and two buffaloes also died in Mattur village.

College of Fine Arts invites applications

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The College of Fine Arts, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Bengaluru, has invited applications for its Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Visual Arts for the academic year 2025-26.

The duration of the course is four years and is open to students who have completed PUC or 10+2. Interested candidates can download the application form from the official website: www.thefa.art.

For inquiries, applicants may contact the principal, Gomathi Gowda, via email at principal@thecfa.art or call 63649 17676.

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt.: Saran), Bihar-841221

E-Open Tender Notice No.:- S/RWP/E/2025-26/01, dated : 17.04.2025.
"Principal Chief Materials Manager /Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the President of India invites **online "e-Open Tender"**, through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in,** for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The Closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. **Sl.No. 1, Tender No. 01241055D, Short Description of item :** Ladle Insulation Material, **Quantity :** 188 MT, **Date of Tender Closing/ Opening :** 16.05.2025 at 14:00 Hrs.
1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in 2.** The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including **Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation** with respect to the above tender. However, this information will also be invariably published in the all concerned newspapers.
PCMM, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt./2025-26/07

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice No. BE-29-2025-26-OT-03 (Through E-Tendering)
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
[1] Provision of Dimming sensor integrated LED fixtures on FOBs at major stations over Bengaluru Division. [2] Augmentation of lighting at stations duly covering dark patches over Bengaluru Division. [3] Improvement to illumination at Bengaluru Station.	Rs. 87,65,200/-

Last date for submission of Tender is: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 09-05-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General
PUB/40/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. 06/SBC/25 of 07-04-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Bengaluru -Jolarpettai Section**: Provision of safety fencing with W-Beam metal barrier for 35.60 Kms. (Assistant Divisional Engineer / Bengaluru Section) in connection with Increasing sectional speed from 110 Kmph to 130 Kmph. Maintenance period is 12 Months. (Two Packet)	Rs. 14,45,94,105/-
2	**Bengaluru -Jolarpettai Section**: Provision of safety fencing with W-Beam metal barrier for 72.94 Kms. (Assistant Divisional Engineer/ Bangarapet Section) in connection with Increasing Sectional speed from 110 Kmph to 130 Kmph. Maintenance period is 12 Months. (Two Packet)	Rs. 29,64,51,031/-
3	**Bengaluru-Jolarpettai Section**:Construction of boundary wall for a length of 39.05 Kms. in connection with the work of increasing sectional speed from 110Kmph to 130Kmph Maintenance period is 12 Months. (Two Packet)	Rs. 23,03,94,758/-

Last date for submission of bids:**Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 05-05-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/44/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination/Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. : 04-SNT-MYS-2025
Dated: 10-04-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:-

Name of work	Approx. Value
Interlocking of 14 Nos. of LC Gates over Mysuru Division where TVU has exceeded 20000 in Mysuru Division [Composite Work of S & T Work, Engineering, Electrical General and Electrical TRD]	Rs. 14,92,75,604/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 05-05-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer
PUB/43/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Mysuru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE NO. 02/MD.43/SPL PATHOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION/ CH/UBL/25-26
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, offers are Invites for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
"Expression of Interest" (EOI) from all the willing Laboratory Centeres/diagnostic centres/Hospitals for entering into tie up for providing services of Clinical Investigations including Pathological Investigations, Bio-Chemical, Special Lab investigations etc., to Railway beneficiaries/patients of Central Hospital, South Western Railway, Gadag Road, Hubballi, as per CGHS 2014 Bengaluru Rates & updated 2021 CGHS rate list and as and when rates are revised or AIIMS rates or hospital rates which ever is less, through MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). (Period of tie up 02 years)	Rs. 80,02,749/-

Last date for submission of offer :
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 05-05-2025
For details log on :
www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in>Tender/EOIs
Medical Director, Central Hospital Hubballi
PUB/39/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No. SUR/L/T/ 2025/01. The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed & experienced contractors for the following works. **Name of Work**: Condition monitoring and Maintenance of DG sets over Solapur division for the period of three years. **Estimated Cost**: ₹ 29,66,713.29. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 59,300/-. **Completion Period:** 38 Months. **Validity of offer:** 60 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website**: **12.05.2025** at **15:00 hours**.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)
Akar/Sur-42 **CR, Solapur**
DOWNLOAD UTS APP FOR TICKETS

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **SRI. NAVEEN. R.B S/o. Sri. Basawaraj** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder **SRI. JAGESH BABU. V. P S/o. Sri. Payeri Nanu;** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel property Bearing **Site No.65,** Carved out of Property No.357, BBMP New EPID No. 4935090564, Situated at the **Kalkere Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** Now comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Measuring East to West **:30 Feet,** and North to South: **40 Feet,** in all measuring **1200 Square Feet.,** and bounded on the:-
East by : Site No.66, West by : Site No.64, North by : Site No.46, South by : Road.
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

Government of Odisha
Information & Public Relations Department
Lok Sampark Bhawan, Bhubaneswar
*****
No. 6856 / I&PR, Bhubaneswar, Dated : 17.04.2025 (IPR)
Selection of SOCIAL MEDIA AGENCY For Government of Odisha.

1. **Director, I&PR Department, Govt. of Odisha (The Client)** invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from the eligible bidders for selection of an Agency to manage the affairs of Social Media for I&PR Department, Govt. of Odisha.
2. Scope of work eligibility requirement and other details may be seen in the website of I&PR Department **www.inpr.odisha.gov.in/** website of Govt. of Odisha **http://www.odisha.gov.in**. The RFP document may be downloaded from either.
3. Last date for receipt of sealed Proposal is **dtd. 08.05.2025 by 05.00 PM**.
4. Opening of RFP on **dtd.13.05.2025 at 11.30 PM** in the Office of the Director, I & PR, Lok Sampark Bhawan, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar. Pin-751001.
4. Pre-bid consultation with intending bidders on **date 25.04.2025 at 11.30** in the conference hall of I&PR Department .

BIDDER'S DATA SHEET :

Sl. No.	Particular	Details
1.	Name of the Client	**The Director, I&PR Department, Govt. of Odisha**
2.	Method of Selection	Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
3.	Date of the Issue of RFP	**Dtd. 18.04.2025**
4.	RFP Due Date	**dtd. 08.05.2025 by 05.00 PM**
5.	Date of Opening of the Proposal	**dtd. 13.05.2025**
6.	Address for Submission of Proposal	**The Director, I&PR Department**, Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Odisha, Lok Sampark Bhawan, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751001. Telephone No - 2394890 Email - **iprodisha@gmail.com** **Mode of Submission :** Speed Post/ Registered Post/Courier service only. **Submission of Proposal through any other mode and late Proposal will be rejected.**
7.	Place of Opening of Proposal	Conference Hall of I&PR Department

Director
Z: OIPR-15001/11/0551/2526

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

The future of cities imagined through AI and sustainability by young minds at CMR University's flagship Design Thinking Challenge

Recently CMR University successfully hosted the flagship Global Open Innovation Challenge, at its scenic Lakeside Campus in Bagalur as part of its annual Design Thinking Day celebrations under the banner of CAUSE 2025 organised by the Department of Common Core Curriculum. The two-day event, conducted under the theme "Reimagine Your City," served as a vibrant platform for young innovators from across the globe to apply design thinking to create inclusive, sustainable, and resilient solutions for urban futures. Chief Guest Mr. Ajay Krishnan, VP - ESDM, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission, GOK, inaugurated the event in the presence of dignitaries including Dr. H. B. Raghavendra, VC, Dr. Praveen R, Registrar, and the university's deans and directors. This year's edition of the challenge saw an overwhelming response with over 770+ teams and over 3,000 students participating from 124 institutions across 13 countries and 75 cities. Countries represented included Brazil, UAE, Sri Lanka, and Oman, while Indian cities such as Delhi, Chennai, and Srinagar added to the diversity of the cohort. Over 75+ projects were showcased. In the CMRU category, Team 'Power Pair' took home the top prize for their innovative sustainable packaging solution designed for food delivery apps. In the national category, Team 'Luminous Pathfinder' won first place with their glow-in-the-dark, self-charging road marking product. Meanwhile, in the international category, Team 'Sanad' from the UAE clinched the first prize for their patient-centered transportation service. The winners were applauded for their innovative spirit and commitment to civic betterment, with their solutions promising long-term societal impact.

Kristu Jayanti College Clinches Historic Gold and Silver at National Pencak Silat Championship

Kristu Jayanti College has achieved a historic milestone by winning its first-ever medals at the All India Inter University Pencak Silat Championship. The college's martial arts team brought home a gold and a silver medal, marking a proud moment in the institution's sporting journey. The prestigious championship, was jointly hosted by Bengaluru North University and KJC under the aegis of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). The three-day event has drawn over 750 athletes from 68 universities across India, showcasing the growing prominence of Pencak Silat in the country's inter-university sports circuit. KJ's historic win was spearheaded by Thoshitha Gowda, who clinched the gold medal and Lazar Lino Peter added to the glory by securing a silver medal. The inaugural ceremony was graced by several dignitaries including Prof. Niranjana Vanalli, Vice Chancellor of Bengaluru North University; Fr. Dr. Augustine George, Principal of KJC; Sri C. N. Sridhar (KAS), Registrar of Bengaluru North University; Fr. Dr. Lijo P. Thomas, VP of KJC; and Sri Vasanth Kumar B. V., Finance Officer of Bengaluru North University. Kristu Jayanti College's inaugural medal haul stands as a testament to the dedication of its athletes and coaches, signalling a promising future for the institution in national martial arts competitions.

Presidency Group of Institutions (PGI) hosts Teachers' Awards-INSPIR' Ed 2025

In a grand celebration of dedication, innovation, excellence and legacy in education, the PGI hosted the much-anticipated INSPIR'Ed Awards 2025 at the Presidency University Campus. The event recognized and honored outstanding educators for their exceptional contribution in shaping young minds and fostering a culture of learning. The event was graced by celebrated author Ms. Anita Nair and former IPS Officer & cyber security expert Mr. Sanjay Sahay. Both the distinguished guests spoke about the importance of teachers in building a strong nation and how the PGI is promoting quality education in Karnataka. These awards were given to both teaching and non teaching staff who have demonstrated exemplary dedication and service to the Presidency Institutions over five decades. Dr. Nafeesa Ahmed-Director, PGI, emphasized the pivotal role of teachers in shaping the future of students and the society. Mrs. Kauser Nissar Ahmed-Founder Trustee, PGI thanked each and every person who has contributed to the growth of the Presidency Schools.Dr. Nissar Ahmed-Chairman, PGI & Founder Chancellor Presidency University while reflecting on his five decades of journey in the field of education, expressed gratitude and spoke about the immense contribution of each of his team member in building a legacy that will continue to serve the student community for years to come. Awards were given in various categories like long service award, institutional legacy award ,best teacher award,rising star award and the evening turned out to be a memorable one for everyone.

XIME Bangalore Celebrates 29th Convocation with Grand Ceremony Honoring 282 Graduates

Xavier Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship (XIME), Bengaluru, marked a momentous occasion as it hosted its 29th Annual Convocation celebrating the academic triumphs of 282 students. The ceremony steeped in tradition and emotion and saw 228 graduates conferred with Post Graduate Diplomas in Management (PGDM) and 54 with PGDM in Business Analytics (PGDM-BA) symbolizing the culmination of relentless dedication and intellectual growth. Mr. S. Vishwanathan Chief Board Member of XIME formally declared the convocation open. In his warm welcome address, Mr. Anil Philip, President of the XIME Society extended heartfelt gratitude to Chief Guest Mr. Ramesh Ramadurai, MD of 3M India. Dr. Roshni James, Director of XIME Bangalore presented the annual report highlighting the institution's achievements of the academic year 2024-25. The convocation drew to a close with Mr. S. Vishwanathan congratulating the graduating class and officially concluding the proceedings. As families, faculty, and friends mingled. The campus buzzed with heartfelt embraces, photographs and reflections on shared memories. The air was thick with pride a testament to XIME's legacy of shaping future-ready leaders.

BBMP introduces option for declaration of bulk waste for property owners

This is made available within the civic body's tax payment portal, asking users to self-identify as bulk waste generators

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

In a move aimed at bringing greater accountability to bulk waste management, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has introduced a declaration option within its property tax payment system. This was introduced about a week ago by the revenue department of the BBMP.

This new measure will require certain property owners to self-identify as bulk waste generators, allowing the civic body to streamline waste processing responsibilities across the city and exempt such owners from user fee.

A senior BBMP official confirmed that the tax payment portal features a dropdown option where property owners can declare whether they fall under the category of bulk waste generators. The classifications include residential complexes with 100 or more dwelling units, properties measuring over 5,000 square feet, and properties generating 100 kilograms or more of waste daily. Property owners will need to select the applicable category to complete their declaration. Those who comply with this declaration will be exempted from the user fee that came into effect on April 1.

The new measure will allow the BBMP to streamline waste processing responsibilities across the city and exempt those owners who comply with it from user fee. FILE PHOTO

According to the BBMP, the aim of this initiative is to push bulk generators toward in-situ waste processing and make them more aware of the complexities involved in managing large volumes of waste. For the civic body, handling bulk waste has become a growing challenge, adding to the burden of managing regular household waste. Declared bulk waste generators will be required either to process waste within their premises or to hand it over to empanelled private waste processors. However, the civic body is not leaving room for misuse. To guard against false declarations, the Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) will conduct physical inspections. These checks will be carried out based on data provided by the BBMP's revenue department, which will track and list properties potentially falling under the bulk waste category. Inspectors will verify the waste processing methods and whether the waste is being handed over to empanelled processors or to regular waste collectors under contract with BBMP, violating norms. Any discrepancies found during the inspection will attract penalties.

Those who neither process the waste themselves nor partner with empanelled agencies must hand it over to BBMP at a processing fee of ₹12 per kilogram, a cost the civic body hopes will deter non-compliance and encourage decentralised waste management.

Key elements of the new feature

Objective
- To improve accountability and streamline bulk waste management across Bengaluru

Who qualifies
- Residential complexes with **100 or more dwelling units**
- Properties over **5,000 square feet**
- Properties generating **100 kg or more of waste daily**

Incentive
- Exemption from user fee introduced on **April 1**

Checks and penalties
- BSWML will conduct physical inspections
- Inspections based on BBMP revenue department data to spot undeclared bulk generators
- Penalties for false declarations or non-compliance
- Those who neither process waste themselves nor partner with empanelled agencies to be charged **₹12 a kg**

From Page One

'Karnataka will enact Rohith Vemula Act'

Highlighting the discrimination B.R. Ambedkar faced in his lifetime, citing some examples, Mr. Rahul Gandhi said what the architect of the Indian Constitution faced was "shameful" and legislation was needed to ensure that this generation of students does not face such humiliation.

"He tells us about his experience in school: 'I knew I was an untouchable, and that untouchables were subjected to certain indignities and discriminations. For instance, I knew that in school I could not sit in the midst of my classmates according to my rank, but I was to sit in a corner by myself'," Mr. Rahul Gandhi said quoting Dr. Ambedkar.

'It is a shame'

He further said in the letter, "It is a shame that even today millions of students from Dalit, Adivasi and OBC communities have to face such brutal discrimination in our educational system."

RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SADASHIVANAGAR, BENGALURU – 560 080
Advt. No. 11/2025 – Dt. 16/04/2025

Raman Research Institute is a premier autonomous institute engaged in research in basic sciences funded by the Government of India. The institute invites applications for the following post purely on Deputation basis.

1. Assistant Administrative Officer I – 1 post

Last date to apply is 20 June 2025 and for more details, please visit ; **https://www.rri.res.in/careers/other-openings**

Error in PID numbers leads to rejection of e-khatas in city

An applicant for e-khata found that the property could not be located using his name, property number, or assessment number. FILE PHOTO

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

A simple clerical error in BBMP's manual records has caused severe hardship to a poor cobbler from Murphy Town, whose e-khata application was rejected due to an incorrect Property Identification Number (PID) – one that doesn't even exist in official records.

The sources in the BBMP say this is not an isolated case, and many are complaining about rejection due to incorrect PID numbers. The error was made during the manual entry of such numbers in the record book by the civic body.

Valid khata

V. Subramani, a long-time resident of Ashraya Scheme House on Anantha Nair Road, had been issued a valid khatha certificate and extract in 2014 by the Assistant Revenue Officer (ARO) of Jeevan Bima Nagar Sub-Division. Mr. Subramani has consistently paid property tax under the same number till 2025. M. Pari, a former BBMP councillor who has been assisting Mr. Subramani, said the issue cropped up when he attempted to apply for an e-khata, only to find that the property could not be located using his name, property number, or assessment number.

After prolonged effort, Mr. Subramani traced his property details manually in the BBMP's ward-level records. There, he discovered that during the manual entry completely different PID had been entered, which, upon verification, was found to be linked to no property at all.

Sources in BBMP say the error was made during the manual entry of such numbers in the record book by the civic body

Mr. Subramani filed an online application for e-khata on April 16, 2024, attaching all relevant documents, including proof of property tax payments and the original khata. He followed it up with a personal visit to the BBMP's Jeevan Bima Nagar Sub-Division office the next day to submit hard copies. Despite clear documentary evidence, the application was summarily rejected on the grounds of the incorrect PID – a mistake entirely attributable to BBMP's records, Mr. Pari said.

'Room for bribes'

A source in the revenue department of the BBMP told *The Hindu*, "Several applications were rejected by the ARO, citing incorrect PID number. This can be rectified at the administration level by looking into the original documents uploaded by the applicant. But the AROs are allegedly rejecting such applications to create room for bribes. In a month, at least 10 such applications are being rejected."

Mr. Pari said there is an option to edit PID number and despite the edit correcting the mistake the AROs are rejecting the applications.

The issue has been brought to the notice of the BBMP officials to rectify the problem but no action was initiated against the AROs, he said.

THE HINDU GROUP

BE A PART OF TAMIL NADU'S START-UP BOOM.

The Hindu Tamil Nadu Startup Summit brings together founders, investors, and industry leaders to foster collaboration and drive innovation. This initiative paves the way for the upcoming Global Startup Summit organised by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Get ready for the ultimate startup power-up.

April 24, 2025
9:30 am onwards
Entry by Invitation

Scan the QR code to register or visit
newsth.live/TNSSPA

SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
(Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC Act, 1956)
Presents
THE HINDU
TAMIL NADU STARTUP SUMMIT-25
Co-presented by
StartupTN
In association with
sify

Chief Guest

Valedictory Address at 6:45 PM

Thiru T M ANBARASAN
Hon'ble Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Urban Habitat Development Board, Government of Tamil Nadu

Keynote Address at 9:45 AM

Dr Atul Anand, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary, MSME Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.

In the presence of

Dr C Muthamizhchelvan
Vice Chancellor, SRM Institute of Science and Technology

AR Unnikrishnan
Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu State Council & Managing Director - Glass Group, Saint-Gobain India Pvt Ltd

Sivarajah Ramanathan
Mission Director & Chief Executive Officer
Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission

Event Schedule

Session 1: 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM
Building a Diverse Startup Ecosystem: Inclusion & Gender Equality

Session 2: 11:20 AM - 11:50 AM
Fireside Chat: Harnessing Innovation: Tamil Nadu's Role in the Global Startup Ecosystem

Session 3: 11:55 AM - 12:55 PM
Startup Success Begins in the Classroom: The Power of Education in Innovation

Session 4: 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM
Fireside Chat: Nurturing Startups from Campus to the Global Scale: Building Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Universities

Session 5: 2:35 PM - 3:35 PM
Nurturing Entrepreneurship in South Tamil Nadu: Opportunities & Challenges

Session 6: 3:40 PM - 4:40 PM
Digital Transformation: Startup as a Catalyst for Change

Session 7: 4:45 PM - 5:15 PM
Fireside Chat: Democratizing Retail: How AI is Empowering Businesses of All Sizes

Session 8: 5:20 PM - 5:50 PM
Fireside Chat: Cybersecurity in the Startup World: Why Stakeholders Can't Afford to Ignore It

Session 9: 5:55 PM - 6:55 PM
HealthTech Innovations: Revolutionizing Healthcare in Tamil Nadu

Phygital Commerce Partner: RetailGPT Just Prompt
Technology Partner: Tally POWER OF SIMPLICITY
Strategic Partner: CII Confederation of Indian Industry
Fragrance Partner: MANGALDEEP PREMIUM QUALITY INCENSE
TV Partner: புதிய தலைமுறை

For sponsorship queries & partnerships
98419 62820
98408 16017

A BG-BGE

From Page One

KSRTC to roll out real-time bus tracking

The total investment for the initiative is estimated to be ₹30 crore, with the Union government funding 60% and the State government contributing the remaining 40%, official added.

The VTMS project will also include an accident monitoring feature. "The system will help track incidents of speeding, deviations from approved routes, and other operational irregularities. This is aimed at not only improving safety but also reducing the overall accident rate, which could significantly cut the corporation's operational costs," official said.

The move follows a similar initiative by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), which introduced the "Namma BMTC" mobile application in 2023. The app enables real-time tracking of around 5,200 BMTC buses operating within Bengaluru city.

The "Namma BMTC" app has been useful for urban commuters by helping them locate nearby bus stops, plan routes by entering their start and end points, and view amenities available at bus stations and Transit and Traffic Management Centres (TTMCs). The app also features an emergency SOS button, a direct call centre link, and the ability to share live location through social media. Users can provide feedback, access the websites of BMTC, and even purchase passes under the "My ticket/passes" section.

KEA sets new guidelines for CET counselling

"NEET and CET counselling will be held simultaneously in the State. Before this, JEE admission will be completed by June. Therefore, the details of candidates from the State who have written the NEET exam along with CET and secured seats in national medical institutes with good ranks will be available on the NMC website. However, the details of candidates of Karnataka domicile students who have secured admission in national technical institutes with good scores in the JEE, along with CET, will be officially obtained by writing a letter to the NTA. Then, the candidates who have secured admission in the national will be verified, and such candidates will be blocked from CET counselling process," explained Mr. Prasanna.

Mr. Prasanna further said some candidates, after securing good ranks in the CET exam, do not join other professional courses, including engineering, but instead participate in the counselling process for nursing and allied health sciences courses during the first two rounds of seat allocation for the purpose of seat blocking. Later, without taking the seats in nursing and allied health sciences courses, they apply for government quota engineering seats in prestigious private engineering colleges during the final round of counselling.

"Since their CET ranking is good, seats are allotted to these candidates. Ultimately, such candidates do not go on to take admission. The seats remain vacant and will eventually be converted into private seats. Therefore, such candidates will also be kept under scrutiny," he said.

Karnataka leads in India with 5,880 EV charging stations

Of these, 4,626 are in tier-1 cities, primarily Bengaluru

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

An electric vehicle charging centre in Bengaluru.

Karnataka has emerged as a front-runner in India's electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, boasting the highest number of public charging stations among tier-1 cities, as per the data of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency.

The State hosts 5,880 public charging points, of which 4,626 are concentrated in tier-1 cities, primarily Bengaluru. This places Karnataka far ahead of other major States, such as Maharashtra, which has 2,454 stations, and Delhi, which has 1,951, all established within the last five years.

Though the capital city accounts for the bulk of this infrastructure, Karnataka's EV footprint is expanding beyond metro areas. Tier-2 cities across the State now host 285 public charging stations, while tier-3 towns collectively have 969 stations, according to the data.

Officials from the State Energy Department attribute this success to a mix of environmental concerns and policy foresight.

"The surge in fuel prices and the worsening quality of urban air have pushed electric mobility to the forefront. Karnataka was the first State in India to unveil an EV policy back in 2017, which laid the foundation for today's progress," an official said.

At the time of the policy's roll-out, Karnataka saw an annual EV registration of approximately 11,000 vehicles.

The expansion of charging infrastructure has been powered by a combination of funding mechanisms, including the Central Government's FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) initiative, investments by the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom), green cess revenue from the Transport Department, and several public-private partnerships.

In a further boost to the State's electric mobility mission, the Karnataka government announced several forward-looking initiatives in its 2025-26 State Budget presented on March 7. These include plans to set up a cutting-edge EV testing track, and a dedicated EV manufacturing and research cluster in the Bengaluru zone. The government is targeting an investment of ₹50,000 crore with the aim of creating 1 lakh jobs within the clean mobility sector.

A senior official from the Transport Department revealed that, as part of its strategy to electrify public transport, Karnataka will deploy 14,750 electric buses under schemes like PM e-DRIVE, PM-eBus Sewa, and various Externally Aided Projects.

"Of these, 9,000 will be inducted into the fleet of the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC). In the current financial year alone, the State has introduced 716 electric buses on its roads," the official added.

To encourage the adoption of EVs at the community level, the government has launched a scheme offering financial assistance to unemployed individuals from backward communities. Eligible beneficiaries can receive up to ₹3 lakh to help purchase an electric four-wheeler. "This initiative aims to address both employment and environmental concerns by supporting clean mobility solutions," the official said.

Transport experts said the State's early and aggressive policy decisions are responsible for the current success.

"Karnataka's 2017 EV policy is a good move. The number of charging stations in Bengaluru alone shows how infrastructure can build consumer trust. But now, it's time to focus on enhancing interoperability, standardising pricing, and offering real-time availability data to improve user experience," said M. N. Srihari, a transport expert.

Mr. Srihari added expanding charging infrastructure across tier-2 and tier-3 cities, as well as along national highways, must be the next priority. "For EVs to become truly mainstream, charging stations need to be as easy to find as petrol pumps. Only then will consumers feel confident enough to make the switch," he said.

Battery-swapping kiosks for EVs to come up at 4 city railway stations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal is one of the stations to get the facility.
FILE PHOTO

In a green push to support the growing electric vehicle ecosystem, the Bengaluru division of South Western Railway is set to roll out battery-swapping kiosks for EVs at four key railway stations.

These facilities will soon be available at KSR Bengaluru City station (third entrance), Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal, Banaswadi, and Yelahanka, offering a quick and convenient option for two- and three-wheeler EV users to swap discharged batteries for fully charged ones.

Aimed at promoting clean mobility and reducing dependence on conventional fuel, this initiative also opens up a new stream of non-fare revenue for the Railways.

A senior official from the Bengaluru Division said, "The kiosks are designed to serve high demand efficiently. Each site will occupy an area of 250 square feet and house four swap stations, with each station equipped to store 14 batteries. Altogether, the infrastructure is expected to cater to more than 800 vehicles daily."

A private firm has bagged the contract for a three-year term and will pay the Railways a licence fee of ₹22 lakh annually. "The swapping service is priced at around ₹42 per kilowatt-hour. For instance, swapping a completely drained 1.5 kWh battery on a two-wheeler would cost the user ₹56," the official added.

This initiative also opens up a new stream of non-fare revenue for Railways

Interestingly, the system has been designed for speed and ease. No designated EV parking has been earmarked at these stations. Commuters can simply ride up to the kiosk, swap their depleted batteries for fresh ones, and be on their way – all in under five minutes.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/108/2025 Dated: 11-04-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
1) Bagalkot- Kudchi new line project proposed construction of ROB at Ch 35068 in lieu of LC No 1 as 1x18m Composite girder (Railway portion) +2x18.46m PSC Girder and U Type retaining wall + CC block wall in approaches, **2)** ROB at Ch:36593 in lieu of LC No.2 as 1x24.0m composite girder +2x18.46m PSC Girder and U type retaining wall + CC block wall in approaches between Kajjidhoni and Lokapur stations. **3)** ROB No 107A at Ch: 38173 as 1x18m composite girder (Railway portion) +2x18.46m PSC girder and U type retaining wall + CC block wall in approaches between Lokapur and Yadawad stations. **(Tender Ref. No.: ROB107A-LC-1-2-BGK-KUD)**	Rs. 51,32,69,598/-

Date of closing of Tender is : **Upto 15:00 hrs on 08-05-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/49/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Material Management Department
('e'-Tender Notice for the supply of Stores, No. EPS/68/2025)
PCMM/WCR on behalf of the president of India Invites the following advertised tenders through E-procurement System. No manual/postal offers shall be entertained. Tenders can be accessed under the link website "https ://ireps.gov.in" for details and for submission of Tender.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Short Description	Tendered Qty.
1	38241728B	Brake Beam Primary	661Nos.
2	30241055	PROCUREMENT OF SILENT BLOCK FOR ANCHOR LINK TO RDSO.	11420Nos.
3	38242200	Adapter A.A.R. Standard Wide JAW.	6531Nos.
4	80251056	SHELL GADUS S5 V42P GREASE FOR WAG-9/WAP7 LOCO AXLE BOX BEARING.	10300Kgs.
5	80251017	HYDRAULIC Oil HLP - 68 N with RDSO additional requirement.	76630LTR
6	38251918	Cable Assembly for Hand Brake arrangement	2068Nos.
7	38241347	Distributor valve complete	412Nos.

For Above Tenders Due date **Sr No.** 1 or 2 - 12.05.2025, **Sr No.** 3 - 14.05.2025, **Sr No.** 4 - 15.05.2025, **Sr No.** 5 - 19.05.2025, **Sr No.** 6 - 22.05.2025 & **Sr. No.** 7 - 28.05.2025. "For tenders with estimated value below Rs. 50 lakh, interested firms are advised to visit www.ireps.gov.in"
(SD.)
For Principal Chief Material Manager, WCR, Jabalpur
स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

KLE-CTiE launches VentureVibe 2.0

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The KLE Centre for Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship (KLE-CTiE) has launched VentureVibe 2.0, a three-month entrepreneurship programme aimed at nurturing innovation among students and research scholars.

This initiative is designed to bridge the gap between academia and industry through mentorship, hands-on learning, and pre-incubation support.

Representatives from academia, industry leaders, and aspiring entrepreneurs participated in the launch event at the KLE Auditorium.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. B-TRD-29-2025-26-OT-02 Dated : 11-04-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Outsourcing of TRD maintenance & breakdown activities in Baiyyappanahalli (Incl)- Omalur (Excl), Yelahanka (excl) - Bangarapet (excl), Chikbanavar (incl) - Sampige Road (incl) Bengaluru (incl) - Jolarpettai (Excl), Chikbanavar (Excl) Hassan (Excl), Bidadi-Yeliyur and Yelahanka-Dharmavaram sections for 2 years period	Rs. 19,87,82,652.49

Last date for submission of Tender is: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 05-05-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer Traction Distribution, Bengaluru
PUB/41/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Capital Region Urban Transport
Plot No-548/1452, Patia, Kalarahanga, Bhubaneswar, Odisha (INDIA), Pin -751024.
E-Mail :- crutbbsr@gmail.com ; Phone No. 0674-3501580

Notice No. 854 / CRUT **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** Date: 17/04/2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ADVANCED DRIVER ASSISTANCE SYSTEM (ADAS) AND DRIVER FATIGUE & MONITORING SYSTEM (DFMS)/DASHCAM IN BUSES UNDER CRUT ON SOLUTION AS A SERVICE (SAAS) MODEL.

Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) invites Proposal from interested agencies for the above-mentioned purpose. Please refer the RFP document for details.

- The RFP document shall be available from **18/04/2025** onwards in following web portal: **www.capitalregiontransport.in**. **Any further intimation (i.e. Corrigendum / Addendum / Responses to the queries / Clarifications) shall be uploaded in the above website only.**
- Applicants are required to submit duly filled Proposal as per the prescribed formats on or before **07/05/2025 by 4:00 PM.** The Proposals received shall be opened at **12:00 PM on 08/05/2025.**
- In case of any queries/clarifications, email at **crutbbsr@gmail.com**
- CRUT reserves the right to accept or reject bid process without assigning any reasons thereof.

General Manager (P&A), Capital Region Urban Transport
C-129 : OIPR-13183/11/0037/2526

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438

Brief Tender Notification
(Through KPP-portal only)

BESCOM invites tender against Enquiry No: **BESCOM/2025-26/SE0239/CALL-1** dated **19.04.2025** for **Annual Technical Support and Annual Maintenance of Master Data Management System (MDM) for ALDC Bescom for a period of Five years.**

Bid documents will be available from **19.04.2025**. Last date for Bid submission is **03.05.2025** upto **16:00 hours**. Bid documents will be opened on **05.05.2025** at **16:30 hours**.

The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal from the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP Portal. Bidder can take the assistance of KPP helpdesk: **+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777** or e-mail at **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager, (Elec),
Operations - 3, BESCOM
2nd Floor, KR Circle, Bangalore - 560 001.
Mob: 9449844747

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
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Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, APR. 19
RISE 06:05 SET 18:33
RISE 00:00 SET 10:35

SUNDAY, APR. 20
RISE 06:04 SET 18:33
RISE 00:01 SET 11:31

MONDAY, APR. 21
RISE 06:04 SET 18:33
RISE 00:52 SET 12:28

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	25
Mysuru	34	21
Bengaluru	33	20

Bengaluru Today
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

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THE HINDU
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National Pencak Silat Championship at Kristu Jayanti College

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The All India Inter University Pencak Silat Championship 2024-25, jointly organised by Bengaluru North University and Kristu Jayanti College, an autonomous institution, was held from April 14 to 16.

Pencak Silat is a traditional Indonesian martial art that combines strikes, grappling, and cultural and spiritual practices. As many as 623 athletes represented 47 universities in the men's category and 39 in the women's category.

Bengaluru North University emerged as the overall champion in both men's and women's divisions.

Host institution KJC secured the most gold medals (4), along with two silver and one bronze. Guru Nanak Dev University (Amritsar) and Chandigarh University were runners-up in the men's and women's categories, respectively.

The tournament included various combat and artistic events across weight categories.

Artistic events included Tungal, Solo Creative, Ganda, and Regu, reflecting the rich tradition of Pencak Silat.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANEETH Gowda Manjunath, S/o Manjunath Boregowda, R/at No.1038/8, 3rd Cross, Adithya Layout, Behind Spectra Convention Hall, Vijayanagar, Mysuru-570017, presently camped at Bengaluru City, have changed my name from Aneeth Manjunath to Aneeth Gowda Manjunath vide affidavit dated 11-04-2025 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, Bengaluru.

I, NAYAZ Ahmed, R/at No.3356/3, Ward No. 16, 3rd Cross, Darga Mohalla, Amanikere, Vijayapura, Bangalore-562135, have changed my name from Nayaz Ahmed to Madaar Sab Urf Nayaz vide affidavit dated 17-04-2025 sworn before Notary S.R.Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

I, MANAVI K.V, D/o Vishwanath H.C, R/at B-006, Wilson Manor Apartment, 13th Cross, Wilson Garden , Bangalore - 560027 have changed my name from Manavi Preetham To Manavi K.V vide affidavit dt 16.04.2025 before Notary C.V. Earappa, Bengaluru.

Tel-0663-2548268; E-mail Id: serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SAMBALPUR.

e-Procurement No.1298 / Dated : 16.04.2025

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle Sambalpur on behalf of **Odisha State Rural Road Agency (OSRRA)** invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for Repair / Maintenance of the Rural roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for each of the following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways. (The registered bidders of outside Odisha may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities of State Govt. before signing the contract.)

1	Name of work.	:	**Periodical maintenance of 5 year completed PMGSY Road under Incentive Grant for the year 2024-25**
2	Class of Contractor.	:	As mentioned in Annexure
3	No of packages.	:	**01 No** of Package
4	Estimated cost	:	**Approximately Rs.315.03 lakhs** (Information in DTCN will be Final)
5	Bid submission fee	:	**Rs.10,000/-** (Non-Refundable) per set of package
6	Mode of submission of tender	:	Only through online in website **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in.**
7	**Summary of key dates are provided below:**		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time for seeking clarification	Last Date and time of submission of Original documents	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of tender Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.	**PMGSY-Online-RWCSBP-03/2025-26**	**23.04.2025 From 11.00.A.M.**	**07.05.2025 Up to 05.00 P.M.**	**06.05.2025 Up to 5.00.P.M.**	**13.05.2025 By 5.00.PM**	**08.05.2025 At 11.00.A.M.**	**Will be intimated later**

* **Special conditions: 1**- EPF registration is mandatory before drawl of agreement. **2** - Rate quoted by the contractor shall be excluding GST. **3**. EMD, Bid submission fee and original affidavits should be submitted at the O/o Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur **or** O/o Executive Engineer / Superintending Engineer of Concern Rural Works Division.
* Details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**
* Subsequent modification/corrigendum/Addendum if required shall be appeared in the website only.

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.
O-67: OIPR-25091/11/0054/2526

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its owners: **Sri.J.PRUTHVI** S/o Sri B.V.Jagannath and his daughter **Ms. ANAGHNA,** residing at the Schedule property.

Apart from the said Owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, sub-lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s or claims with the undersigned (along with the photocopies of the documents based on which they rely for asserting their rights), **within 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.1 (Old No.11), PID No.49-46-1, measuring East to West 52¾ feet and North to South 140 feet in all measuring 7406 Sq.feet, with a building thereon comprised of Ground and First Floor, situated at 3rd Cross, Shankarapuram, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004 and bounded on:

East by : Property belonging to L.Muniswamy Reddy;
West by : Property belonging to Venugopal Naidu;
North by : 3rd Cross Road;
South by : Conservancy.

Sd/- **GOUTAM CHAND S.F,** Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

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THE HINDU

Eye on brownfield projects

The process of working on abandoned land often requires collaboration with environmental experts and adherence to stringent government guidelines

Vimalendra Singh

Cranes working on a building complex. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

A building being constructed. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The rapid urbanisation experienced by many cities in India has led to a growing scarcity of undeveloped land. This phenomenon has intensified the focus on brownfield projects – sites that were previously developed but are now underutilised or abandoned. These projects represent a significant opportunity to address the dual challenges of urban expansion and sustainability while revitalising existing urban areas. Brownfield projects involve repurposing or enlarging pre-existing structures or infrastructure.

Optimising land use

Redevelopment of brownfield sites is a strategic response to the demand for modern infrastructure in densely populated cities. Such projects can revitalise neighbourhoods, improve urban aesthetics, and create economic value. However, this process is complex, requiring meticulous planning and execution to navigate its inherent challenges.

There is a great opportunity to optimise land use through redevelopment. Transforming underutilised or derelict sites enables urban growth while preserving untouched natural areas. Since brownfield projects are generally in areas with pre-existing infrastructure like roads, power grids, and wastewater treatment facilities, this can result in considerable cost savings compared to greenfield projects, where infrastructure needs to be built from scratch.

Developers active in this space, approach brownfield redevelopment as a cornerstone of responsible urban development. Integrating sustainability and innovation ensures that each project not only revitalises the urban fabric but also aligns with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) objectives. By prioritising remediation and repurposing of sites, unsafe or neglected areas can be transformed into vibrant spaces for residential, commercial, or mixed-use purposes. This approach underscores the role of brownfield projects in creating cities of the future while addressing current urban challenges.

Basic challenges

Despite these opportunities, brownfield redevelopment is fraught with challenges. The foremost among these is land contamination. Many brownfield sites are remnants of industrial or commercial activities that left behind pollutants, making the land unsuitable for immediate use. The process of remediation – identifying contaminants, mitigating risks, and ensuring regulatory compliance – can be time-consuming and costly. It often requires collaboration with environmental experts and adherence to stringent government guidelines.

Another critical challenge is the uncertainty surrounding existing infrastructure and utility connections. Brownfield sites often have ageing or inadequate infrastructure that needs to be upgraded or replaced.

Strategic solutions

Industry leaders address these challenges through a combination of expertise, innovation, and collaboration. Advanced technologies such as geographic information systems (GIS) and building information modelling (BIM) are employed to assess site conditions, model potential outcomes, and optimise project designs. These tools streamline processes, reduce risks, and enhance overall project efficiency. Additionally, engaging with local stakeholders ensures transparency and fosters trust, paving the way for smoother project execution.

The financial viability of brownfield projects also demands careful evaluation. While the redevelopment of such sites can generate significant returns, the upfront costs associated with land acquisition, remediation, and infrastructure upgrades can be prohibitive. Developers must assess market demand, anticipated revenue streams, and funding options to ensure that the project aligns with their financial objectives.

Collaboration among stakeholders is essential to overcoming these challenges. Government agencies can provide incentives, such as tax benefits or grants, to offset remediation costs, while developers bring in the expertise and capital necessary for execution. Engaging with local communities early in the process can also foster goodwill and mitigate potential resistance by addressing concerns transparently and inclusively.

The strategic value of brownfield redevelopment extends beyond individual projects. At a macro level, such initiatives contribute to the broader goals of urban renewal and economic revitalisation. They can transform neglected areas into thriving hubs of activity, attracting businesses, residents, and investors. This ripple effect not only enhances property values but also stimulates job creation and local economic growth.

The vision for brownfield redevelopment in India goes beyond transforming individual sites. The goal is to create integrated urban ecosystems that enhance quality of life, foster economic growth, and promote sustainability. By leveraging expertise, commitment to innovation, and focus on collaboration, developers are unlocking the immense potential of brownfield projects, contributing meaningfully to the future of urban India.

The writer is Chief Business Officer (Residential), Mahindra Lifespace Developers Ltd.

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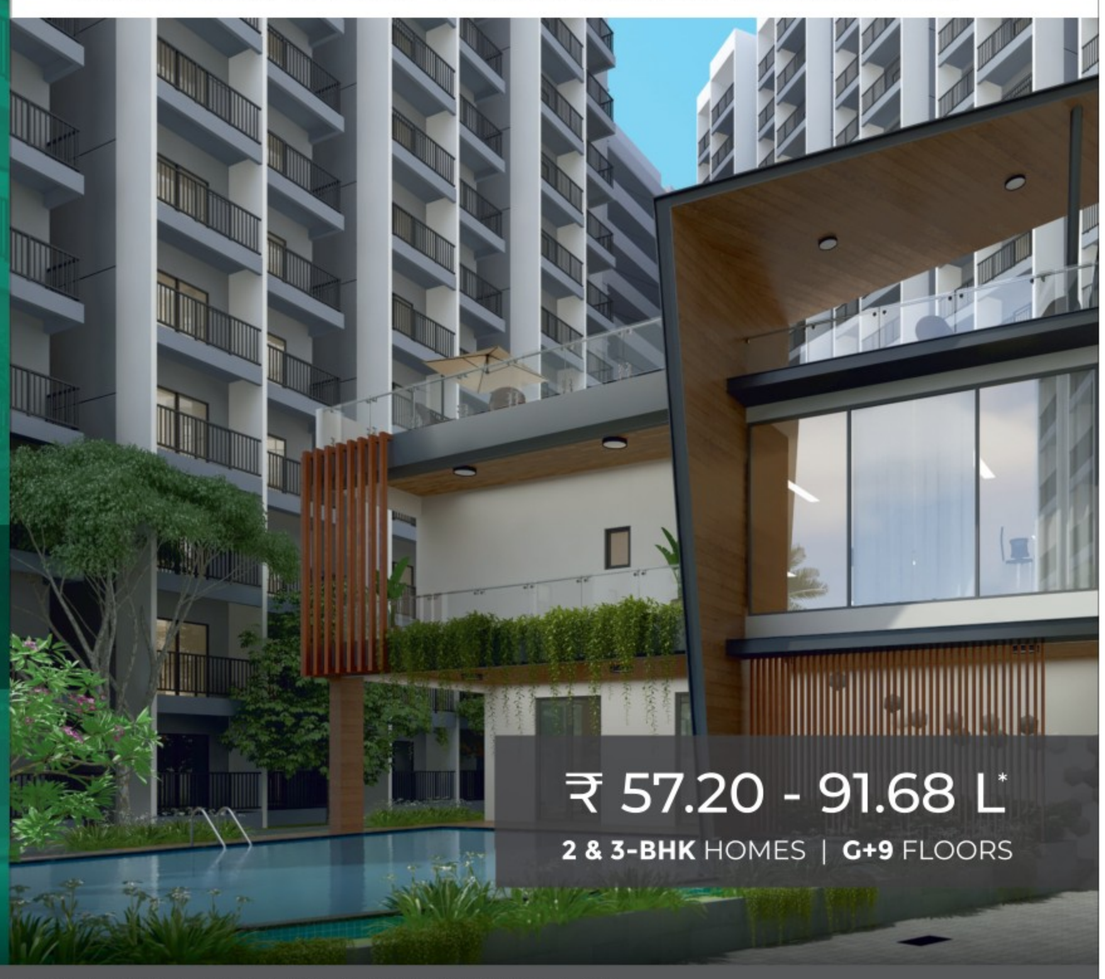

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PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/150223/005721 G+14 MYSORE ROAD NEAR CHALLAGHATTA METRO ₹ 61.76 - 87.47 Lakhs*	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006972 G+4 ELECTRONIC CITY 10 MINS. HOSA ROAD METRO ₹ 62.26 L - 1.24 Cr*	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/446/PR/210312/004002 G+14 K R PURAM NEAR GARDEN CITY UNIV. ₹ 76.66 - 94.94 Lakhs*	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/290122/004660 G+4 SARJAPURA SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE RD ₹ 43.68 - 48.87 Lakhs*	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006973 G+14 BANNERGHATTA RD NEAR KOPPA GATE ₹ 56.64 - 93.23 Lakhs*	PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/251024/007179 G+14 WHITEFIELD 15 MINS. HOPEFARM METRO ₹ 72.34 L - 1.23 Cr*

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CREDAI BENGALURU

Siddaramaiah to buy more time to arrive at consensus on caste census

According to sources, to avoid the anger of politically and socially dominant communities, the Chief Minister could consider negating the issue by referring it to a Cabinet sub-committee

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

After facing opposition from within the State Cabinet and outside from those belonging to the politically influential Veerashaiva-Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is likely to adopt a "go-slow" approach to arrive at a consensus on implementing the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey, popularly called the caste census.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who chaired a Cabinet meeting on Thursday, told his Ministers to give in writing the shortcomings of the survey report and suggest ways to correct drawbacks, if any. About eight to 10 Ministers spoke in the Cabinet meeting and the Chief Minister has decided to give other Ministers a chance to air their grievances in the next Cabinet meeting, sources in the Congress said.

Amid allegations that the survey, conducted about a decade ago, did not cover many households in urban areas such as Bengaluru city, the government is planning to open the door for households, which have not enrolled in the survey, to register their caste and other indicators, Congress sources said.

Siddaramaiah

The report was the product of the Congress and the party high command has backed its implementation. To avoid the anger of politically and socially dominant communities, the Chief Minister could consider negating the issue by referring it to a Cabinet sub-committee and buy some more time to take a final decision, sources said.

In the Cabinet meeting, some of the Ministers from the Veerashaiva-Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities have questioned the parameters adopted for carving out new groupings for reservation.

The commission's recommendations for shifting Kurubas, OBC, from more backward category of 2A to most backward in category 1B, has not gone well with the dominant caste groups and their leaders, sources said. Along with Kurubas, the commission also recommended moving smaller OBC groups of 2A to 1B.

Some of the Ministers have reportedly suggested to the Chief Minister that their communities would not accept the report in the present form and the party may have to face electoral setback in the 2028 Legislative Assembly elections.

At present, out of the 137 Congress MLAs, 60 legislators belong to the two dominant communities.

It is argued by a section that the Congress suffered electoral defeat in the 2018 Assembly elections owing to then Siddaramaiah-led government's recommendation to grant religious minority status to the Lingayat-Veerashaiva community.

'It may take a year for a final decision'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after the special Cabinet meeting held to discuss the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (caste census), PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Friday said that the State government will take at least one more year to take a final decision and implement the recommendations of the report.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Jarkiholi, who is seen as a loyalist of the Chief Minister, said there was "no urgency" to take a decision on the report.

'If we add all claims, I wonder what the State's population would be'

K. Jayaprakash Hegde, former chairman of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, says the government still has the option to get the survey updated, if it feels it needs to

INTERVIEW

K. Jayaprakash Hegde

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj

K. Jayaprakash Hegde, former chairman of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, submitted the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (caste census) report to the State government in 2024. The report, now being debated in the Cabinet, has created a storm in Karnataka politics over the last week. *The Hindu* spoke to him about the issues being debated around the contentious report. *Edited excerpts:*

K. Jayaprakash Hegde

Leaders of some communities have said that the survey is unscientific. How do you defend the survey?

The survey was conducted by over 1.3 lakh teachers of the State, overseen by the government machinery. There was a pro forma with 56 questions to collect socio, economic and educational details of each family, including their caste. These pro formas are still with the district administrations, including the signatures of the persons interviewed. Answers to 56 questions, with the signatures cannot be manufactured by teachers. This voluminous data was digitised by Bharat Electronics Ltd and ratified by Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. I don't understand how it can be called unscientific.

Apart from Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats, other communities have also disputed their population count. Many say surveyors had not visited every household.

It is true that we have not been able to cover every household. The projected population of the State in 2015 was 6.35 crore and we have covered over 6 crore, which is around 95% of the State's population. It is a very good survey by any objective yardstick. Moreover, even among those 30 lakh-plus population not included in the survey, there is no way only some community households can be left out, when the survey itself is a decentralised activity by 1.3 lakh government teachers from all communities and regions.

Every community seems to be inflating their numbers. If the claims of all the communities are considered, I wonder what the State's population would be. Meanwhile, the government still has the option to get the survey updated, if it feels it needs to.

But in the case of Veerashaiva-Lingayats, some members of their sub castes like Ganiga Lingayats, Banajiga Lingayats and Sadara Lingayats may have identified as belonging to their equivalent communities in the larger Hindu society to claim reservation under Category 2A. But the survey cannot be faulted for this.

Many communities including the Kurubas, generally considered to be well off, have moved from more backward category to most backward category. What does this tell us of reservation as a tool of social upliftment over the past four decades?

An expert committee was constituted for evaluating each community based on their socio-economic and educational indicators, found out from the survey. Each community was marked for 200 marks and depending on the marks awarded to each community and slabs chosen, communities have been categorised as most backward, more backward, and backward. It is based on data collected and the decision of the expert committee.

Communities moving from earlier classification of more backward to most backward in our recommendation, doesn't mean they have regressed. This is the first time this quality of socio-economic and educational data is available for each community. This reflects the reality as against earlier classifications, based on dipstick surveys and sometimes ad hoc decisions. For instance, the Kurubas are revealed to be more backward than what they are perceived to be.

Karnataka embarks upon village-level survey of antiquities

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Karnataka has embarked upon a village-level survey for documentation of antiquities in an initiative that is reckoned to be the first-of-its-kind in the country.

Once completed, it will provide a comprehensive inventory of the antiquities. The survey has been carried out in 119 taluks so far and the authorities hope to complete it in the remaining taluks by the end of the current financial year.

This was stated by A. Devaraju, Commissioner, Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, during the World Heritage Day celebrations, here on Friday. He said the survey is a foundational step in safeguarding the rich archaeological heritage and it will be a model for other States.

The Department of Archaeology, Museums, and Heritage celebrated World Heritage Day in Mysuru on Friday. M.A. SRIRAM

He said the survey entails documentation of inscriptions, sculptures, monuments etc. across villages and each antiquity will be geo-tagged making Karnataka the first State to have such a detailed inventory.

Mr. Devaraju pointed out that there were more than 800 State-protected monuments in addition to over 600 protected by the Archaeological Survey of India. The department has submitted a proposal to the State government to add another 110 monuments to the protected list and the process was under way. In addition, steps are being taken to list another 1,000 monuments to be protected to ensure their conservation, Mr. Devaraju added.

He also mentioned that the State's conservation efforts include a successful PPP model that is in vogue since 2001. Under this model, the Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Dharmothana Trust has entered into an MoU with the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage as per which the trust will foot 40% of the expenditure in conservation of a monument. The department will chip in with 40% of the funds and the local community contributes 20% of the amount. So far, over 200 monuments and temples have been conserved under this model, said Mr. Devaraju.

Pointing out that there were more than 25,000 monuments in the State as per an estimate, Mr. Devaraju said there were challenges in their conservation, to overcome which programmes like 'Adopt a Monument' had been floated under which corporates can chip in with CSR funding.

Referring to the situation in Mysuru, Mr. Devaraju said heritage was threatened more by conflict of views among officials and different departments rather than natural disasters.

Mysuru's iconic structures such as the Lansdowne Building, Devaraja Market, and Maharani's College are examples of heritage loss caused by such disputes, he added, and pointed out that the theme for this year – heritage under threat from disaster and conflict– was highly relevant.

"While natural disasters are beyond our control, conflicts can and must be avoided and citizens have an important role in heritage conservation," said Mr. Devaraju.

Shalvapille Iyengar, chairman, Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, KSOU, provided a list of monuments that have been lost in recent conflicts in different parts of the world. Sharat Chandra, architect from Heritage Matters, members of the Institution of Engineers, were among those present.

World Homoeopathy Day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Homoeopathic Medical Association (KHMA) will host World Homoeopathy Day 2025 on April 20, marking the 270th birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homoeopathy.

The celebration will take place at A.V. Rama Rao Auditorium, IISc.

'Funds released to contractors in a transparent way'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minor Irrigation Minister N.S. Boseraju on Friday claimed that funds had been released in a transparent manner to all contractors, who executed works in his department.

Speaking to reporters here, the Minister said of the total 2,637 works, money has been fully released for 660 and partially for 1,977 works as of March, 2025. He termed baseless allegations by the Karnataka State Contractors' Association (KSCA).

The Minister issued a statement a day after meeting KSCA representatives.

Earlier this month, KSCA had made allegations against Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Satish Jarkiholi, besides Mr. Boseraju, citing non-payment of dues. The association's president Manjunath had also accused Mr. Boseraju's son Ravi Boseraju of "interference" in departmental activities.

N.S. Boseraju

Contesting those claims, the Minister said there had been no interference from his son. Reacting to allegations by the KSCA that payments have not been made on seniority, Mr. Boseraju said the question of seniority does not arise when funds were to all contractors.

Special trains for summer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to accommodate the increased demand during the summer holidays, South Western Railway has announced the operation of special express trains between Belagavi and Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of General Public that our Client is purchasing immovable property with building bearing Old No. 11/2, New No.13, PID No. 75-63-11/2, situated at Jogupalya Main Road, 1st Cross, Ulsoor, Bengaluru, measuring East by:22 ft 11 inches + 1 ft, West by :22 ft 11 inches + inches, North by : 29 ft 6 inches and South by: 29 ft 6 inches In all measuring 676.02 sq ft, & bounded on the East by : Sri. V. Narayana Reddy's House, West by: Common passage measuring 4 ½ x 25 ft along with common staircase then Sri Rama Reddy's House, North by :Passage and Sri. Aswathanarayana House, South by: Common passage measuring 9 ft + 11 ½ ft x 68 ft and Road from its owners 1) **Mrs. S.N.NAGALAKSHMI,** W/o., Mr. S.A. Nagesh, at DHARANI, Right 1st Cross, Chokkanna Street, Chikkamangaluru-577101, 2) **Mrs. S.S. SREE VALLI,** W/o., Sri. P.S. Sridhar, No. 51/2, Ibrahim Saheb Street, B'lore-01. Any person/s having objections to the said transactions can register their claim/s with documentary evidence with the undersigned within 15 days of publication hereof, failing which, our clients will proceed with the transactions and any claim/s received thereafter will not be entertained.

H.V.NAVEEN KUMAR RAO & H.V.SUNIL KUMAR RAO, *ADVOCATES*
No. 57, 1st Floor, Veerapillai Street, Bengaluru-01, Mob : 9341380225

Govt. of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Sri Malai Mahadeswara Swamy Kshethra Development Authority,
Mahadeswara Hills, Hanur Taluk, Chamarajanagar District.
Telephone No. : 08225-272128 / Fax : 272123 Email : sec.mmtemple@gmail.com

No. S.M.M.K.D.A/4/PR/85/2025-26 Dated : 14-04-2025

EXPRESSION OF INTREST NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, under signed has invited Expression of Interest is here by invited on behalf of the Secretary, Sri Male Mahadeswara Swamy Kshethra Development Authority, M.M. Hills, Hanur Taluk, Chamarajanagar District - 571490 from the interested bidders for Regarding the supply and Installation of furniture for the newly Constructed Vajramale Guest House (376 rooms) in Sri Malai Mahadeshwaraswamy Kshethra Development Authority.

EXPRESSION OF INTREST (EOI) IS INVITED FOR PRE-QUALIFIED OF WORK FROM ELIGIBLE CONTRACTORS/FIRMS ALONG WITH CONSORTIUM FOR FROM THE INTERESTED BIDDERS FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF FURNITURE FOR THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED VAJRAMALE GUEST HOUSE (376 ROOMS) IN SRI MALAI MAHADESHWARASWAMY KSHETHRA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, M.M. HILLS, HANUR TALUK CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT.

Salient features of the work :

Sl. No.	Item	Brief Particulars
1.	Name of Assignment	Providing the interested bidders for supply and installation of furniture for the Newly Constructed Vajramale Guest House (376 rooms) in Sri Malai Mahadeshwaraswamy Kshethra Development Authority, MM Hills, Hanur taluk, Chamarajanagara district.
2.	Scope of work	The interested bidders for supply and installation of furniture for the newly consutred Vajramale Guest House (376 rooms) in Sri Malai Mahadeshwaraswamy Kshethra Development Authority, MM Hills, Hanur taluk, Chamarajanagara district, Karnataka state documents are uploaded.
3.	Last date of submission of EOI with all necessary required document	22-04-2025 upto 4.00 pm
4.	Date of Opening EOI	23-04-2025 at 4.00 pm pr at any time in working days

NOTE :
1. The under signed as got authority to accept or reject the EOI without assigning any reasons.
2. Further details may be obtained from the office of the Secretary, Sri Malai Mahadeshwara Swamy Kshethra Development Authority, M M Hills.

ಸಂ:ವಾಸಾಸಂಅ:ಚಾನಗರ:25:2025–26

Sd/- Secretary, Sri Malai Mahadeshwara Swamy Kshethra Development Authority, Mahadeswara Hills.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Dr Samuel Mathew Kalarickal
(1948 - 2025)

Funeral Service:
St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church,
Kottayam, Kerala, April 21st, 3:00 pm.

Memorial service:
Mar Thoma Syrian Christian Church,
Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai.
April 26th, 4:30 pm.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

First Year Anniversary

Dr. P. ROBERT GURUSWAMY
Age - 92 Yrs
Former Bursar
Madras Christian College

Loving remembrance by
Family and Friends.
Ph: 9884551736

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

10th Anniversary

Lakshmi Solaimalai
Born : 21/03/1941
Expired : 19/04/2015

Forever in our hearts, our guiding light, "Amma"

Ramsundar, Ramkumar, Malarvizhi, Anuradha, Kavitha, Rachna, Bharath, Lakshitha
Relatives & Friends.
+ 91 73974 11311

INBRIEF

Naming Naipunya centre after Hedgewar improper: Minister

Minister for Local Administration M.B. Rajesh said here on Friday that it would be improper both morally and politically to name the Kerala government's Naipunya skill development centre after RSS founder K.B. Hedgewar. He said Hedgewar had not only stayed away from the freedom struggle, but also spoken against fighting the British. He said the BJP and the RSS were free to give names of their leaders to their party projects, and not government schemes.

Parappa block in Kerala's Kasaragod bags PM's award

The Parappa block in Kasaragod district of Kerala has won the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration-2024 in the category Aspirational Blocks Programme. Collector K. Inbasekar will receive the award in New Delhi on April 21. Parappa was selected first among 426 Aspiration Blocks across the country. The recognition comes for excellence in areas such as health, social welfare, agriculture, tribal welfare and entrepreneurship development.

Food poisoning: 12 migrant workers hospitalised in Kochi

Twelve migrant workers were admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital, Ernakulam, on Thursday following suspected food poisoning. They were admitted to the emergency wing around 8.30 p.m. Ganesh Mohan, medical superintendent of the hospital, said the workers had developed symptoms that included diarrhoea and vomiting on Thursday after eating home-cooked food. All the patients are in stable condition, he said.

Formula of breaking parties won't work in T.N., says Stalin

Responding to Amit Shah's assertion that the AIADMK-BJP alliance will form the government in the State in 2026, he says Tamil Nadu is unique, and will never submit to Delhi's administration

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Posing a challenge to BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin on Friday said Tamil Nadu will never submit to Delhi's administration. "Your formula of breaking political parties in other States, threatening them by conducting raids, and then forming the government will not work in Tamil Nadu," he said.

During a government function at Ponneri in Tiruvallur district, Mr. Stalin recalled Mr. Shah's assertion that the AIADMK-BJP alliance will form the government in the State in 2026, and said: "I challenge him

M.K. Stalin

[Mr. Shah]. Tamil Nadu will never submit to Delhi's administration. We are unique." Reiterating that the DMK's Dravidian model of governance will emerge victorious in 2026, he said, "Our Tamil Nadu will always remain out of Delhi's control."

In an apparent reference to the AIADMK-BJP alliance, Mr. Stalin said: "You, who threatened and forced some people here to form an alliance [with you], think you can win? Bring all your *parivaars* here – let us see who wins! [Look at] how you've been insulting Tamils!"

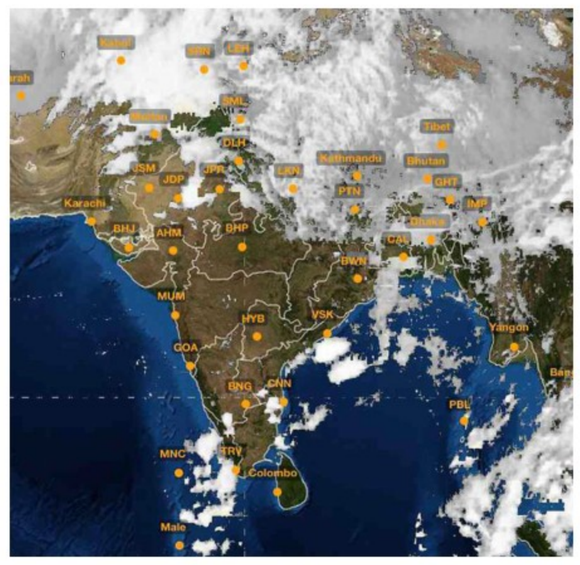
He also recalled the remarks on Tamils made by Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Shobha Karandlaje, who subsequently apologised.

"What did you [Mr. Shah] say in Odisha? You and the Prime Minister [Narendra Modi] claimed that Tamils had stolen the keys of the sanctum sanctorum of the Puri Jagannathar temple. Only because a Tamil IAS officer was with the Odisha Chief Minister, you resorted to a divide-and-rule policy. You cannot do that in Tamil Nadu," he said.

Mr. Shah was planning to rule Tamil Nadu by forging an alliance with "a group of slaves from a traitor alliance with no sense of self-respect and Tamil pride," Mr. Stalin said, adding: "Please do flip through the pages of history. This Tamil land is filled with self-respect and valour, and it has never allowed imperialism and encroachments." "We are aware as to how you will use the [law enforcement] agencies to threaten us before the election within a year; even the people are aware. We are not slaves to submit to this bullying. Be it Amit Shah or any Shah, you cannot rule over us," he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim. Thundersquall with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Punjab, Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	13	32.4	21.4	Kozhikode	—	36.2	28.2
Ahmedabad	—	42.6	26.0	Kurnool	—	40.5	29.4
Aizawl	7	29.5	16.5	Lucknow	—	36.0	24.5
Allahabad	—	39.0	25.4	Madurai	—	39.4	27.6
Bengaluru	—	32.2	23.6	Mangaluru	—	33.5	25.7
Bhopal	—	42.2	27.2	Mumbai	—	32.8	24.5
Bhubaneswar	3.2	33.0	26.4	Mysuru	—	34.8	20.5
Chandigarh	—	—	23.0	New Delhi	—	41.0	25.6
Chennai	—	34.3	28.5	Patna	2	29.1	21.6
Coimbatore	—	36.0	25.3	Port Blair	—	33.0	25.2
Dehradun	—	35.0	20.1	Puducherry	—	34.6	27.6
Gangtok	15	18.0	12.9	Pune	—	42.0	24.3
Goa	—	35.0	28.0	Raipur	—	41.4	27.2
Guwahati	—	32.0	20.9	Ranchi	—	32.4	20.3
Hubballi	—	37.0	22.0	Shillong	27	21.1	14.6
Hyderabad	—	38.6	26.5	Shimla	—	30.0	17.6
Imphal	—	33.3	19.8	Srinagar	—	23.4	12.0
Jaipur	—	43.5	28.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.1	26.6
Kochi	—	33.2	27.0	Tiruchi	—	38.1	27.4
Kohima	5	23.2	14.4	Vijayawada	—	38.2	27.2
Kolkata	13	31.2	22.1	Visakhapatnam	—	34.7	28.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.44	.26	.13	183	136	
Bengaluru	—	.28	.38	141	116	
Chennai	.14	.15	.94	49	45	
Delhi	.33	103	.45	260	236	
Hyderabad	6	.37	.36	81	106	
Kolkata	6	.26	.26	60	60	
Lucknow	7	.38	.23	110	166	
Mumbai	.11	.27	.78	29	45	
Pune	.53	.13	107	305	—	
Visakhapatnam	.10	.37	.25	56	98	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 245 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Rupnagar, Punjab recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Actor Shine Tom Chacko faces police summons as drug controversy rages on

G Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Controversy continued to rage for the second consecutive day on Friday over accusations of alleged drug-impaired misconduct centred around Malayalam film actor Shine Tom Chacko even as the Kerala Police confirmed that they would issue the actor a formal summons.

Furthermore, the brouhaha over Mr. Chacko's "disappearance" after he allegedly made a run for it from a hotel during an inspection by the District Anti-Narcotic Special Action Force (DANSAF) in Kochi early Thursday appeared to supercharge the latest scandal. A senior police official said law enforcement, so far, has no case against Mr. Chacko as no drugs were discovered from the search. But, the official said his risky escape during the search required an explanation.

Moreover, he said the police would examine the female actor's complaint to film bodies, including an Internal Complaints Committee, that Mr. Chacko had misbehaved with her allegedly under the influence of drugs on a film set. The female actor also found support from the government. Minister for Culture Saji Cherian said that actor has set a brave example by coming out in the open.

An emergency meeting of the monitoring committee led by the Kerala Film Chamber of Commerce to handle complaints related to workplace harassment of women in the Malayalam film industry will be held on Monday to decide on the allegations raised against Mr. Chacko.

Order probe into Kancha Gachibowli land, says KTR

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao alleged that the Telangana government had mortgaged 400 acres of Kancha Gachibowli land, lacking legal title, to secure a ₹10,000 crore loan through intermediaries without environmental clearance or Forest department approvals.

"This isn't just about biodiversity loss, but it's a ₹10,000 crore scam by the Congress government," he alleged in a post on a social media platform. He claimed that the Supreme Court's Central Empowered Committee had confirmed financial irregularities and recommended a simultaneous probe by the Central agencies such as CBI, RBI, SEBI, SFIO, and CVC, to which the BRS had already submitted evidence.

KTR requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to order an inquiry into the Kancha Gachibowli land sale plan of the State government, through which it has garnered ₹10,000 crore. Instituting an inquiry by the national investigating agencies would also demonstrate the Prime Minister's commitment to take a firm stand against the destruction of the 'forest' and a ₹10,000 crore 'financial fraud.' It would be an appropriate opportunity to refute the allegations about BJP-Congress collusion in Telangana, he argued.

Mr. Rama Rao described the controversy surrounding the devastation of over 400 acres of ecologically-critical forest land in Kancha Gachibowli as an "environmental catastrophe".

Retracing a path

Sad day: Believers take out the 'Way of the cross' procession from the St. Joseph's Cathedral in Thiruvananthapuram on Good Friday, commemorating the journey of Jesus Christ for his crucifixion.
NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Karnataka HC quashes attachment of properties; says ED failed to act within deadline

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Noticing that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) failed to pass the final attachment order for more than three years against the statutory deadline of 180 days from the date of provisionally attaching the properties back in 2021, the High Court of Karnataka has quashed both the provisional attachment and the notice issued to the property owners.

Section 5 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, mandates the life of an order of provisional attachment to be 180 days and Section 8 (3) of the Act casts a duty

ED requested the High Court to consider extension of limitation period for filing cases granted by the Supreme Court in view of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020-2022

upon an officer to pass the final order validating the provisional attachment within 180 days, the court said, while holding that the ED had not passed the final order till March 2025.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing petitions filed by Prahlada, Bindu Prahlada, L. Gowri of Bengaluru, and Sai Siri Wealth Management Services.

A criminal case of cheating several investors through an investment firm was registered by the city police and based on this case the ED initiated a separate proceeding under PMLA in March, 2020. Subsequently, the ED in November 2021 provisionally attached properties of the petitioners and issued notices to them but did not pass the final order on attachment even after receiving their replies to the notices.

Following this, they filed petitions in the High Court in June, 2022, for quashing provisional attachment of their properties for failure of ED to pass final attachment order.

Meanwhile, the ED requested the High Court to consider extension of limitation period for filing cases granted by the Supreme Court in view of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020-2022, to pass final order on attachment as the case was initiated just before the pandemic.

However, rejecting this plea, the court said that the ED had even failed to pass final order on attachment during the pendency of these petitions from June 2022 even though the court had not restrained the ED from passing the final order.

Panchamasali rift: Efforts on to iron out differences; meeting by warring factions called off

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Even as leaders of Lingayat-Panchamasali community are divided over the issue of Panchamasali seer Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami's open support to expelled BJP leader Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, the efforts being made by senior Lingayat leaders to iron out differences seem to have yielded positive results.

Consequently both the meetings called by the warring factions within the community have been called off.

While the Akhila Bharat Lingayat Panchamasali Samaj Trust, now headed by former legislator Vijayanand Kashappanavar, had planned to hold meeting of Panchamasali legislators and leaders from of all political parties and elders of the community at Kudalasangama on Saturday, Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami had given a call to his devotees to assemble in Kudalasngama on Sunday for a meeting to deliberate on the issue.

Speaking to presspersons in Davangere, former MLA H.S. Shivashankar had said that they had requested both Vijayanand Kashappanavar and Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami to not go ahead with their plans of holding meetings in the overall interest of the community. He had also taken exception to Mr. Kashappanavar's remarks on the seer and statement by various leaders on the issue, which ultimately, he said, had led to confusion among the community members.

On Thursday, Mr. Kashappanavar was named the new chairman of 'Akhila Bharat Lingayat Panchamasali Samaj Trust'.

The members of the trust and senior leaders of the community who met in Hubballi on Thursday accepted the resignation of incumbent chairman Prabhanna Hunasikatti and unanimously elected Mr. Kashappanavar as the chairman.

Mr. Kashappanavar was openly critical of Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami's stand on 2D reservation and had distanced himself from Panchamasali movement for reservation subsequently. The trust members' decision to choose him was seen as a attempt to send a clear signal to the seer, who has been defending his stand on Mr Yatnal's expulsion. Meanwhile Mr. Yatnal too had made allegations against the trust office-bearers.

The developments naturally had not gone down well with members of the demographically strong Lingayat Panchamasali community, which presently has two religious chairs (Mutts) one at Kudalasangama and the other at Harihar.

While the seer of Harihar peetha Vachanananda Swami has kept himself aloof over the issue, some leaders of the community who had remained neutral on the issue had begun efforts to resolve the issue and that seems to have worked out.

On Friday, Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami confirmed that the Sunday's meeting had been called off considering the appeal by elders of the community, including several legislators.

He said the decision had been taken in order maintain Panchamasali unity and in the coming days a meeting would be convened either in Belagavi or some other town.

Children stuck in car rescued at Tirumala

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

The Tirumala traffic police have rescued two children who got stuck in an SUV and were gasping for breath.

The children have been identified as Bhanu (7) and Neela (4), children of Venkatasubba Reddy and Sumalatha hailing from Badvel town in Kadapa district.

Mr. Venkatasubba Reddy is employed abroad. Ms. Sumalatha, along with her children and the family members of Mr. Venkatasubba Reddy's brother Gangaiah, came to Tirumala on a pilgrimage .

While the ladies in the group chose to trek the Tirumala Hills from Alipiri, Mr. Gangaiah and his relative brought the children to Tirumala by a car. Mr. Gangaiah and his relative locked the children inside the car at a parking lot, and went away to find the way to reach the Tirumala temple.

Meanwhile, the children felt suffocated inside the car and started crying. The taxi drivers in the parking lot alerted the Tirumala traffic police personnel, who broke the windscreens and brought the children out of the car.

The children were rushed to a hospital for first-aid. Traffic home guard Jayachandra and security guard Venkatesh handed over the children to Tirumala One Town police and lodged a complaint for negligence.

A welcome move

Arbitrary takedown orders on Wikipedia will stifle flow of information

The Supreme Court, in quashing the Delhi High Court's orders against Wikimedia to take down a Wikipedia page on the basis of a defamation case filed by the news agency, Asian News International (ANI), has set right an error by the High Court. A High Court judgment, passed on April 2, allowed the taking down of the Wikipedia page by saying that the statements were defamatory and were not a verbatim reproduction of the text in the references that it quoted; that the references were themselves "editorials" or "opinionated articles" and that being an encyclopaedia, Wikipedia carried a "higher responsibility". The reasoning is problematic as the references are based on long form reporting and quotes from independent investigators, and are not "opinions" or "editorials" as the High Court made them out to be. The Court has clearly differed with the High Court's reasoning by observing that the takedown order was based on too wide a prayer, and noted that the directions to remove all false, misleading and defamatory content were too broadly worded. The Bench has now directed the news agency to make a fresh plea to the High Court pointing out specific portions to be removed from the webpage. The fact that Wikipedia is an Internet intermediary which enjoys safe harbour provisions as the content creation and moderation are handled by users of its site should suggest that any wide-ranging takedown order could punish the very model on which the encyclopaedia operates.

Wikipedia is a community-driven encyclopaedia freely available on the Internet and is maintained by volunteers across the world. Even if the quality of articles is not uniform, their editors generally include experts and Wikipedia allows users to edit the content provided they stick to site guidelines. Disputes on content leading to "editing wars" are generally resolved by discussions on the page and measures such as placing the page on "extended confirmed protection" or "full protection", allowing only "extended confirmed users" for the former and administrators for the latter to make changes. These users are not selected by Wikimedia but elected by community members based on their prior editing activity and reputation. These processes have ensured a significant degree of reliability on the encyclopaedia, even as it has become a repository of more than 62.95 million articles in over 350 languages. In asking for the takedown of articles by interpreting critical information as defamation and by even threatening penal action against Wikipedia, judicial actions could unwittingly lead to the stifling of open discussion of entities on the encyclopaedia, thereby acting against the interest of the free flow of information.

Self-inflicted wound

The U.S. stands to lose a lot by defunding higher education

President Donald Trump's threat to revoke the tax-exempt status of Harvard University as an educational institution will have far-reaching consequences not only for the wider student community but also for corporate America and the military-industrial complex. The administration also indicated that it would block the admission of foreign students, who make up nearly a third of Harvard's student body. The university has refused to accept intrusive federal government control over its activities based on the premise that the government is providing hefty grants. The ostensible reason for the Trump administration's move is the so-called "leftwing, antisemitic" protests against the Gaza War that broke out at Harvard and Columbia, which have the image of being left-liberal. The Trump administration seems to be playing to its 'Make America Great Again' (MAGA) base which has nursed historical grievances against north-eastern elites and their universities, exemplified in the Ivy Leagues. These institutions are indeed elite in terms of academic standards but Harvard admits students from a socio-economic spectrum through generous scholarships. The Trump administration opposes Diversity, Equity and Inclusion principles ideologically and Harvard could also have been targeted for this reason. But Harvard has deep pockets and has heft in the corridors of power to outlast Mr. Trump.

Mr. Trump's slashing of government research funds has also affected several public universities, including in deep-red States such as Alabama. Public universities, barring a few such as in Michigan, Texas, and California that have built a sizeable endowment, depend on state support and are under increasing political control. America's government-induced crisis in higher education threatens a key edifice of American strength and power. It strikes at a long-standing belief in that nation, which is borne out by data, that getting a college degree is a surer path towards prosperity. Mr. Trump, formerly a Democrat, is only part of a long-term global mega-trend in politics. The big picture is that America is only a late entrant in defunding public higher education. The U.K., under Margaret Thatcher, was an early starter. India joined the stream long ago with the NDA government only deepening the cutbacks. Australia, Singapore, Germany and the Scandinavian countries are holding out among the developed nations. It is no coincidence that China's ascent has paralleled continued public funding of higher education. Much like the U.S. universities of the past, Chinese higher education institutions are building a knowledge base on other nations and regions. Future generations of Americans will see this as a self-inflicted wound.

A restoration of sanity to the constitutional system

P.D.T. Achary

is former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

The judgment of the Supreme Court of India, on April 8, 2025, namely, *The State Of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor of Tamilnadu and Anr.*, can be called a landmark one as it has brought greater clarity to the constitutional provision dealing with the giving of assent to a Bill by a Governor. In this case, the background to the case is about the Governor of Tamil Nadu, R.N. Ravi, who had kept with him 10 Bills without taking any decision on them for many years. Finally, when the Assembly passed the Bills again and sent them to him, the Governor, instead of giving his assent, as per the mandate of Article 200 of the Constitution, sent them to the President of India for consideration. He sent the Bills to the President only after the Government of Tamil Nadu approached the top court.

The Bench of the Court (Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan) has now held that the action of the Governor in sending the Bills to the President at that stage to be unconstitutional and has struck it down. The Court also struck down the action taken by the President on those Bills – she had withheld assent. Invoking its special power under Article 142, the Court declared that all those Bills rejected by the President shall be deemed to have been assented to.

It is perhaps the first time in the history of the Court that Bills passed by the legislature of a state and withheld by the President have been declared as assented to by the Court. It is an extraordinary remedy to an extraordinary situation created by an extraordinary action of a State Governor.

In fact, Tamil Nadu is not the only State where the Governor has sat on Bills passed by the legislature. It has happened in Kerala, Telangana and Punjab. Kerala has now approached the Court on the same issue, which is yet to be heard.

The Bill does not die

Article 200 lays down the course of action to be followed by the Governor when a Bill duly passed by the legislature is presented to him. The logical course the Governor should follow is to give assent to the Bill. But if he does not follow this and decides to withhold assent to the Bill, the said Article says that he may declare that he is withholding assent. It would thus appear that once the Governor withholds assent, the Bill will die a natural death. The wording of this Article would convey such a meaning. But this part of the Article was very cogently explained by the Court in *State Of Punjab vs Principal Secretary to The Governor of Punjab and Another* (2023). The Court made it unambiguously clear that a declaration by the Governor that he is withholding assent does not bring an end to the Bill. It held that withholding of the Bill should be followed by sending the Bill to the legislature for reconsideration as soon as possible.

When the Bill is thus sent to the legislature, it would reconsider it promptly and send it back to the Governor either in the form in which it was passed originally or with amendments suggested by the Governor. Either way, the Governor will have to give assent to the Bill. He cannot exercise any veto against it. The Court has explained this point in the following words: "if the governor decides to withhold assent under the substantive part of Article 200 the logical course of action is to pursue the course indicated in the first proviso of remitting the Bill to the state legislature for reconsideration ... if the first proviso is not read in juxtaposition to the power to withhold assent conferred by the substantive part of Article 200 the governor as the unelected head of the state would be in a position to virtually veto the functioning of a duly elected legislature by simple declaring that assent is withheld without any further recourse".

This judicial explanation has been carried forward by the Court in the Tamil Nadu case. The Court has reiterated this position, namely, withholding assent is not the end of the story so far as the Bill is concerned but the Governor is mandated to send the Bill back to the legislature for its reconsideration and the Governor shall give assent to the Bill which is sent to him after reconsideration.

The Court's 'time limit' and legality

Three crucial points have been decided by the Court which make this judgment truly historic. The first relates to the time limit fixed within which the Governor as well as the President of India should decide the issue of assent. The minimum period is one month and the maximum, three months. If the Governor or the President does not adhere to this time limit, the aggrieved State can seek the intervention of the constitutional court. Obviously, the Court went to the extent of fixing a time limit in this case because of the fact that the Governor sat on the Bills for years without taking any decision. The Court has said that the Governor does not have the power to exercise a pocket veto or an absolute veto while exercising his power under Article 200.

Following the judgment, questions have been raised on the legality of a time limit under Article 200. The Court has clarified it in the judgment – it has stated that it is guided by the inherent expedient nature of the procedure prescribed under Article 200 and the well-settled legal principle that where no time limit for the exercise of a power is prescribed, it should be exercised within a reasonable period. The Court has viewed the deliberate inaction on the part of the Governor in assenting to the Bills or reserving them for the consideration of the President as a serious threat to the federal polity.

The second point relates to the question of discretion of the Governor in withholding assent or reserving the Bill for the consideration of the President.

The Court has taken the position that the Governor can take either action only on the advice of the Council of Ministers. The judgment says that when the Governor withholds assent, he has to send the Bill to the legislature for reconsideration and when the Assembly sends the Bill back to the Governor with or without the amendments suggested by him, the Governor has to give assent.

But there is a problem with this proposition. For example, what is the occasion when the government has to advise the Governor to withhold assent and send the Bill to the Assembly for reconsideration? When the legislature can send back the Bill after reconsideration without accepting any of the amendments suggested by the Governor, how can it be then said that the Council of Ministers have advised the Governor to propose amendments to the legislature when the government commands a majority there? In fact, on the question of discretion, the Court has not been consistent as different Benches have given different opinions thereon.

Constitutional heads and judicial review

The third, and most crucial, point is about judicial review of the decision of the Governor and the President. The basic proposition laid down by the Court after reviewing a catena of cases is that "no exercise of power under the constitution is beyond the pale of judicial review". So, it has held that there is no reason to exclude the discharge of functions by the Governor or the President under Articles 200 and 201, respectively, from judicial review.

The judgment has been assailed by the Kerala Governor who has said that this is a case of judicial overreach and that it is the job of Parliament, and not the Court, to amend the Constitution. While it is true that Parliament alone has the right to amend the Constitution, it is the job of the judiciary to explain and interpret the constitutional provisions. Another issue that has been raised by a section of lawyers is that the issues decided by Justice Pardiwala's Bench can be decided only by a Constitution Bench under Article 145(3). In fact, the Constitution Bench under Article 145(3) decides substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution.

Closer scrutiny would reveal that none of these points comes under the category of substantial question of law within the meaning of that Article. As a matter of fact, the Court has only brought out the inherent meaning and amplified the dimensions of it in Articles 200 and 201 with the objective of preventing the subversion of the constitutional order. By doing so, the Court has restored sanity to the constitutional system which had come under severe strain due to plain arbitrariness and deliberate inaction on the part of constitutional authorities.

Decades ago, India had seen the unedifying spectacle of a President sitting on the postal Bill for years, with a helpless Union government unable to do anything. This underscores the need to make suitable changes in the relevant provisions of the Constitution relating to the issue of assent to Bills, whether they are passed by Parliament or a State legislature. The cue must be from this judgment. Therein lies the importance of this judgment.

The importance of the top court's judgment on the Tamil Nadu Governor lies in the need to make suitable changes in the Constitution that relate to the issue of assent to Bills

Steering the decarbonisation of India's logistics sector

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Viksit Bharat is not just a vision. It is a commitment to having a stronger, self-reliant India by 2047. At its core lies inclusive development, ensuring that growth reaches every citizen, every business, and every region. But can we truly achieve this goal without a logistics sector that is large, efficient and future-ready? From seamless supply chains to last-mile connectivity, an efficient, scalable logistics network is the strength of equitable and sustained progress.

In this growth journey, while infrastructure, efficiency and accessibility are crucial for an inclusive logistics sector, there is one factor that cannot be overlooked – the environment and its prioritisation are absolutely necessary to build a future-ready, resilient logistics network. India's logistics sector, now one of the most carbon-intensive in the world, must undergo a green transformation. As the nation moves towards a net zero carbon emission by 2070, it is imperative to reduce emissions of transportation, warehousing, and supply chain emissions.

Carbon cost of mobility

This sector bears the brunt of intense carbon emissions, mainly from oil combustion. It contributes about 13.5% of the country's total greenhouse gas emissions, with road transport alone making up over 88% (International Energy Agency (IEA, 2020). Nearly 90% of passenger travel and 70% of freight movement are dependent on roads, with trucks responsible for 38% of CO_2 emissions (IEA, 2023).

Domestic aviation accounts for around 4%, while coastal and inland shipping adds to the emissions load but is significantly less than the road freight movement. Government policies envisage a rapid expansion by 2030 –cargo and passenger movement on inland waterways is set to triple, and coastal shipping cargo movement will increase by 1.2 times. This growth not only fuels economic momentum but also maintains its scalability and sustainability goals.

However, this issue is not just restricted to road freight movement. The warehousing sector, which supports freight movement, is another major emitter. Together, these factors create a pressing issue. How we strike the right balance between growth and sustainability is the question. The time to act is now.

Futuristic approaches

Global examples provide a strong foundation for this transition, with countries such as China and the United States successfully shifting freight transport from road to rail. Rail freight significantly reduces emissions compared to road transport. China has invested heavily in expanding its rail network, and the share of the railways is almost 50%. The United States has also embraced this shift, making rail one of the early decarbonised freight options. India should enhance the share of the railways in freight transport to reduce emissions and improve efficiency – rail has been an early adopter of electrification and is a more sustainable, almost zero-carbon emission mode of transport.

Road freight transport cannot be overlooked, and needs a focused structural change to make it cleaner. India has already taken a bold step in this direction with a recent initiative by the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways – the introduction of overhead electric wires along highways to power electric trucks. The first pilot project on the Delhi-Jaipur corridor could be a breakthrough in reducing emissions from freight movement while ensuring high efficiency and economic viability.

Coastal shipping and inland waterways have immense potential for decarbonisation. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) aims to slash global shipping emissions by 50% by 2050 (compared to 2008 levels), pushing industry to adopt cleaner fuels such as ammonia, hydrogen, LNG, biofuels, methanol, and electricity. India can fast-track its green transition by introducing LNG-powered vessels, solar-assisted electric boats, and even electric or biofuel-run barges. These emission-cutting steps can keep freight movement efficient and sustainable.

Air transport remains one of the hardest sectors to decarbonise due to its heavy reliance on refined fuels, making the transition a costly challenge. However, advancements in sustainable aviation fuels and efficiency improvements in other transport modes could help offset emissions.

Warehousing, often outweaving in the carbon equation, is another significant contributor to emissions due to high energy consumption. Transitioning to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal power can drastically cut the carbon footprint of warehouses.

Moving ahead

Decarbonising India's logistics sector is not just about cutting emissions. It is about building a more competitive, resilient and future-ready industry. India's logistics sector is on the brink of a transformation, and decarbonisation is the key to ensuring sustainable growth. By scaling up rail freight, electrifying road transport, adopting cleaner maritime fuels, and making warehouses more energy-efficient, India can build a high-performing logistics network with a reduced environmental impact. The time to act is now, and with the right policies and investments, India can lead the way in creating a cleaner, greener, and more efficient logistics ecosystem.

The road to a greener future has been paved. It is now time to accelerate.

The views expressed are personal

India's logistics sector, which is one of the most carbon-intensive in the world, needs to undergo a green transformation

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Judiciary and democracy'

The Vice-President of India's strong lines against the Supreme Court of India are unwarranted as what the Court has done is strictly according to the provisions of the Constitution. The timelines actually apply to the chain after the Assembly has made its considered decision.

V. Padmanabhan,
Bengaluru

The use of phrases such as "super parliament" and "firing a nuclear missile against democratic forces" are unsettling. There can always be a healthy debate on whether the scope of Article 142 can be extended to giving such a direction to the President of India. The overall issue is best left to the Union of India to sort out instead of having examples of some leaders transgressing the constitutional boundaries of their office.

S.K. Choudhury,
Bengaluru

While the call for judicial accountability is valid in a democratic framework, equating a constitutional provision with a weapon of mass destruction is alarming and inappropriate. Article 142 empowers the Court to deliver complete justice, especially in situations where existing laws may fall short. Constructive criticism aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability within the judiciary is essential. However, such discourse must be conducted with utmost respect for the institution's role in upholding the Constitution and the rule of law.

Vikas Khatri,
Jalore, Rajasthan

GROUND ZERO

CAPF personnel in Betbona village in Dhulian municipality, Murshidabad. Betbona was among the worst-affected areas of the violence that broke out on April 11 and 12 in the district. DEBASISH BHADURI

In Murshidabad, scars from a communal fire

On April 11 and 12, protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, in Murshidabad district turned violent, leaving three people dead and hundreds homeless. **Moyurie Som** reports on the survivors and the communal fault lines that are deepening across West Bengal

Three days have passed since a mob attacked dozens of shops and houses at Ghoshpara market in the Samsherganj area of Murshidabad district in West Bengal. The remnants of violence are everywhere. All that is left on the road leading to the Samsherganj police station are shards of broken glass, pieces of plastic and wooden debris, and shops with half-open shutters and damaged goods inside.

On the afternoon of April 11, protests broke out in the region over the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, which was passed in Parliament on April 3 and 4. The law gives the government a foot in the door in regulating Waqf properties and in settling disputes regarding such properties. The agitation turned violent when a mob went on a rampage at the market, located about 200 metres from the Samsherganj police station.

Bhakat Distributors, a lottery shop, is owned by Amar Bhakat and Bharati Medical, a pharmacy, by Anirban Hossain. Both shops were severely damaged by the mob. For years, Bhakat and Hossain did business side by side. But the violence has exposed the communal fault lines in the area.

"My shop was targeted because it was owned by a Hindu," says Bhakat, 54. "The mob smashed our computers, stole our furniture, and destroyed all the electrical appliances. They also looted the lakhs of rupees that I had stored for a payment that is due in a few days."

Bhakat adds that the mob consisted of Muslims from the neighbourhood, who knew where people lived and who the shops belonged to. He and members of his extended family have fled the Dhulian municipality. Some of them have gone to Malda, about 30 kilometres away, while others have gone further, to Jharkhand.

Hossain, 42, says Muslims and Hindus have always lived in peace at Dhulian. "Even when the Babri Masjid was being demolished, there was no communal hatred or bitterness here. But that is history now," he says.

In the violence that erupted on April 11 and 12 in Murshidabad, three people lost their lives – Hargobind Das (70) and his son Chandan Das (40), who were lynched on April 12 at Jafrabad village adjoining Dhulian municipality, and Ejaz Ahmed Sheikh (21), who died of injuries sustained in police firing, a few kilometres south of Dhulian, in Gazipur in Kashimnagar suburb.

> Even when the Babri Masjid was being demolished, there was no communal hatred here. But that is history now.
>
> **ANIRBAN HOSSAIN**
> Shop owner

One tragedy, different reactions

Jafrabad remains on the edge. Parul Das, who is in her 50s and has lost her husband Hargobind and son Chandan, recalls the attack again and again for journalists and politicians who visit her.

"I was here when they broke into the house," she says, sobbing. "They dragged both of them out and hacked them to death. My son was alive for a while. We kept calling the police, but no one came." There are now five personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF) stationed a few hundred metres from her house.

Leaders from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is in the Opposition, and members of Hindutva groups have posted photographs of the two bodies on social media and described the violence as an "attack on Hindus". They observed Hindu Martyrs Day in Kolkata on April 16. More than 40 MLAs of the BJP joined the Leader of the Opposition, Suvendu Adhikari, in demanding Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's resignation. Describing the murders as a "heinous crime", the West Bengal Police have set up a special investigation team and made arrests from Murshidabad and adjoining districts.

Unlike the Das family, Ejaz Ahmed Sheikh's family has no security in front of their house. Sheikh's one-storeyed house in Gazipur is located 4 km from Sajur More on National Highway 12, where he succumbed to bullet injuries.

Middle-aged female relatives and neighbours sit on the floor in the courtyard of the house. Sheikh's wife, who refuses to give her name, says before slamming the door shut, "We are sick of recalling the events of that day. My mother-in-law is unwell. Please leave us alone."

Sheikh's cousin, Azhar, rushes into the house as it begins to rain. He says Sheikh is survived by his wife and two-year-old daughter.

Banerjee has announced compensation of ₹10 lakh for the families of the deceased.

The smell of burnt wood

In the Betbona area of Dhulian municipality, scores of houses were set on fire. The smell of burnt wood and soot still lingers in the air. Betbona is primarily a Hindu neighbourhood.

Rita Ghosh, 32, hides the scars on her palms. She says she had to jump from the terrace of her house to escape the violence. "My elder son and husband hid inside our bedroom. I ran away with my younger son. When I came back, the whole village was up in flames, but thankfully, my husband and elder son survived," she says.

Ghosh says the eight goats that the family had reared were charred to death. The family is left with nothing. "Before the violence, we were planning for my husband's surgery. Now we don't know how to survive," she says.

Debgon Mondal, 36, and his wife Deepa, 30, cannot forget how the mob, armed with batons and sticks, entered their neighbourhood.

"We knew they would kill us if we didn't run for our lives," Mondol recalls. "We ran away as far as we could. When we returned, our house was up in flames. I helplessly watched it burn for three hours. We couldn't put it out as our hand pumps and water taps were broken. We waited until the fire brigade arrived." The house and the neighbourhood still bear visible signs of violence such as smashed electricity metres.

Deepa is trying to wrap her head around what happened. She says, "If they wanted to loot us, which they did, why did they have to burn our house down?"

Jawans of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) march across the village. There is an uneasy calm in the neighbourhood, where lush mango trees face blackened houses.

Bacchu Mondal sits on a wooden bed, his head still throbbing with pain. A white bandage covers his forehead and the skin on his left cheek has peeled off. His five-year-old son picks up a two-foot-long wooden stick lying near a door. He says the mob used it to beat his father up.

Mondal recalls how the mob beat him up in front of a temple. "After a while, some of them started talking about whether they should keep beating me or let me go. I sensed an opportunity and ran," he says. When Mondal talks of how the MLA of Sagardighi, Bayron Biswas, took him to a nursing home for treatment, a few villagers immediately rebuke him. "Don't take his name," they say. "He is Muslim."

A divided people

Religious polarisation has become more pronounced in West Bengal over the last few years, says Subha Protim Roy Chowdhury, a political observer who has studied the violence that has broken out during Ram Navami celebrations.

He says, "The communal violence in Murshidabad has exposed the fault lines in the State's politics and society. Over the last few decades, we have been observing regular communal flareups across the State, where people of both communities have been involved."

Almost a week before the communal clashes at Murshidabad, hundreds of high-pitched Ram Navami processions were held across the State. These processions were attended not only by BJP leaders and Hindutva groups, but also by leaders of the Trinamool Congress.

Senior police officials hint at the fact that these festivals pose a challenge. "There were many events planned (in the State) over the last 15 days and all of them were observed peacefully. The scale of mobilisation on Friday and Saturday (April 11 and 12) was high and a number of fronts were opened at the same time, so the police could not reach all the places with the same intensity," says Jawed Shamim, Additional Director General (Law and Order), West Bengal Police.

> We knew they would kill us if we didn't run for our lives. We ran away as far as we could. When we returned, our house was up in flames. I helplessly watched it burn for three hours until the fire brigade arrived.
>
> **DEBGON MONDAL**
> Resident, Betbona

Even before the Ram Navami processions, people had gathered to protest against the Waqf (Amendment) Act in different parts of the State. While the Chief Minister had described the riots as a "pre-planned conspiracy" and had suggested that people from Bangladesh were involved, Murshidabad had been on the boil during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in 2019. Railway properties were attacked and railway lines were uprooted then. However, the two communities had not been pitted against one another during the CAA protests.

Roy Chowdhury says Dhulian and Samsherganj are among the most impoverished regions of the State. "Men migrate from these regions for work and women roll beedis for a living. The beedi factories are controlled by local leaders, MLAs and MPs of the Trinamool Congress," he says.

He says the Murshidabad riots stand apart because of the sheer number of people involved and affected. As of April 17, the West Bengal Police registered 60 First Information Reports and arrested 274 people for their involvement in the violence. "This is also the first time that such a large number of people from one community had to take shelter in another district to escape violence," says Roy Chowdhury.

No place called home

The Ganga meanders across Dhulian and Samsherganj. Across the river is Malda district. This is where the river enters West Bengal. As violence erupted in the Dhulian municipality on April 11 and April 12, hundreds of families took small ferry boats from Kanchantala ghat and Sadar ghat to Malda's Parlalpur ghat.

Around 320 people from 58 families have taken shelter at the Parlalpur high school in Kaliachak III block, almost 1 kilometre from Parlalpur ghat. In the two-storey school, 3-4 families share a classroom. Those who have taken refuge are mostly women and children, as the men are away in other States working as migrant workers.

The Malda district administration has made arrangements for a community kitchen. The camp is frequented by local Hindu religious organisations, who distribute clothes, dry fruits, mosquito nets, and other essentials.

Kalpana Mondal, a resident of ward 7 of Dhulian, who has taken shelter in the camp, is upset that she has not received a mosquito net. "I don't know why I am not getting any of these items. The other day, some people distributed sarees and dhotis. The day before that, they distributed *gamchas* (cloth covering); I didn't get those either. If my sons were at home, I would not have left even after the violence," she says.

As her three sons work as migrant workers, Kalpana fled from Dhulian with six goats to the camp on April 11. The middle-aged woman has left the animals at a relative's place near the camp. Like many others, she refuses to go home until BSF personnel are stationed at the municipality permanently. On April 12, the Calcutta High Court directed the deployment of CAPF personnel in violence-affected areas.

Protima Mondal is hoping to find some work in the school so that she does not have to return to Dhulian. "I have nothing left there. My house was set on fire," she says.

A woman from Dhulian has just received a mosquito net from a Hindu religious organisation. She regularly receives calls from her son, who works in another city, urging her to go back home. She whispers that her daughter-in-law, who is staying in the camp with her, is Muslim. She says if the people in the camp come to know about this, she might face issues. "Initially, we did not accept the marriage. But what could I do when they were in love? I am from a part of Dhulian where we are surrounded by more Muslim than Hindu families. She is one of us now. I have even given her a Hindu nickname," she says.

The district administration has also set up a small medical desk to provide medical aid. However, for some elderly people who require specialised medicine and care, these are not enough.

A number of leaders from political parties, including State BJP president Sukanta Majumdar, have visited the camp and offered to help those displaced by the violence. Majumdar also held protests with a number of displaced people outside the West Bengal Police headquarters in Kolkata on April 16. The next day, he met Governor C.V. Ananda Bose with a group of victims.

While the State administration insists that the situation is slowly returning to normal and people who have taken shelter in the camps are going back home, on April 17, the Governor decided to meet the violence-affected people despite the Chief Minister urging him to postpone his visit.

The West Bengal Police claimed on April 17 that 85 people had returned to Dhulian and 70% of the shops had been re-opened.

But for some, there are still no signs of normalcy. Farida Bibi, 60, hovers anxiously in the Samsherganj police station. She says two of her sons, Kokhan Sheikh, 32, and Milan Sheikh, 28, were picked up by the police. "They were working on the construction of our house this morning when the police came and picked them up," she adds.

On spotting a police van entering the police station carrying a dozen young men, Farida turns quiet. "They are not here," she says and resumes her search.

Families take refuge in Parlalpur high school in Kaliachak III block, almost 1 kilometre from Parlalpur ghat, in Malda district. DEBASISH BHADURI

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From Page One

U.S. may exit if Ukraine peace deal stalls: Rubio

"As of this time, there have been no other instructions from the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, President Putin," Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

When asked about Mr. Rubio's comments on Friday, Mr. Peskov told reporters that "fairly complex" negotiations are ongoing between Russia and the U.S. He did not give details but said no direct talks between Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin are scheduled in the coming days.

"Russia is striving toward resolving this conflict, securing its own interests, and is open to dialogue. We are continuing to do this," he said.

U.S. Vice President JD Vance struck a positive tone in Rome on Friday, ahead of talks with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

"We think we have some interesting things to report on, of course in private," he said. On the negotiations, "I won't prejudge them, but we do feel optimistic that we can hopefully bring this war, this very brutal war, to a close."

74 killed in U.S. attack on Yemen, say Houthis

"The death toll... has risen to 74 martyrs and 171 wounded in a non-final count," he said, suggesting the number of the dead could rise.

The Houthis later announced missile attacks on Israel and two U.S. aircraft carriers. Israel's military earlier Friday said it had intercepted a missile launched from Yemen.

The U.S. strike is the latest in an intensified barrage of attacks under President Donald Trump.

Protesters chanting "Death to America! Death to Israel!" gathered in rebel-held cities around the country, including one major demonstration in the capital Sanaa on Friday.

"The American military build-up and continued aggression against our country will only lead to more counter-attack and attack operations, clashes and confrontations," Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree told the crowd in Sanaa.

Stalin slams PM's 'crying for funds' remark

Pointing to Tamil Nadu's demands for funds, Mr. Stalin said, "When we do the same, is it justified to say that we are crying for funds? I don't cry for funds but for the rights of Tamil Nadu. I neither cry nor crawl and fall at someone's feet. Let us extend our hand of friendship [for better] relations even while pressing for our rights. Who taught us this? It was our leader *Kalaignar* [Karunanidhi]. I am following in his footsteps."

During his recent visit to Chennai, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said certain issues were being raised as a diversionary tactic, Mr. Stalin recalled. "Tamil Nadu is fighting for all the States in India. Is it wrong to ask for the rights of the State? Only because you did not do anything, we moved the Supreme Court against the Governor and obtained a historic judgment," he said.

Not only the people of Tamil Nadu but also those in the rest of the country were aware of the struggle led by the DMK, Mr. Stalin said.

"When this is the truth, those who are digressing from their path need not lament that we are diverting [public attention]. Honourable Union Home Minister Amit Shah! Can you say that Tamil Nadu would be exempted from the ambit of NEET? Can you guarantee that you will not impose Hindi? Can you list how much funds have been sanctioned to Tamil Nadu so far? Can you assure that the representation of Tamil Nadu would not go down after the delimitation process? If what we ask for is a diversionary tactic, why haven't you given a clear explanation to the people of Tamil Nadu?" Mr. Stalin demanded.

He inaugurated over 6,700 projects that have been completed in Tiruvallur district at a total cost of ₹1,166 crore.

He laid the foundation for over 7,300 projects and launched welfare measures for the benefit of over 2.02 lakh people.

India flays Dhaka's call on Indian Muslims

"We condemn attacks on Muslims causing loss of lives and properties. We urge the Government of India and West Bengal to take all steps to fully protect the minority Muslim population," Mr. Alam said in a statement that was posted on his social media handles.

Mr. Alam, a former journalist, is among the top officials of the Yunus administration, and his remarks in recent weeks have often hit the headlines.

India has flagged the alleged incidents of attacks and intimidation against minority religious communities in Bangladesh, following the removal of Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, 2024. Bangladesh has refused to acknowledge that these attacks were because of communal hatred and responded saying that, "Different and often intersecting motives drove these attacks, ranging from religious and ethnic discrimination, to perceived opportunities for revenge against Awami League supporters among minorities, local communal disputes, including about land, and interpersonal issues."

Shubhanshu Shukla

Indian astronaut set for space travel in May

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla is set to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) next month as part of an Axiom-4 mission, four decades after Rakesh Sharma's iconic spaceflight onboard Russia's Soyuz spacecraft, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Friday.

"Group Captain Shukla's journey is more than just a flight – it's a signal that India is stepping boldly into a new era of space exploration," Mr. Singh said, after a review of the work being done by the Department of Space and the Indian Space Research Organisation in New Delhi.

West Bengal Governor meets Murshidabad violence victims

Bose says the purpose of the visit is to establish normalcy; Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had urged him to postpone his visit; NHRC and NCW teams also speak to victims at Malda relief camp

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Teams from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and National Commission for Women (NCW), as well as West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose, visited Malda district on Friday to meet people affected by the recent violence in Murshidabad district.

Hundreds of people had taken shelter in a school in Malda after fleeing from violence in the Dhulian and Samsherganj areas of Murshidabad on April 11 and 12. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had urged the Governor not to visit the violence-affected areas and wait for the situation to normalise. Mr. Bose, however, insisted that he should visit the field to assess the situation for himself before sending reports to the authorities concerned.

"The purpose of my visit is to establish normalcy and ensure peace in the society," Mr. Bose told journalists. "What has happened should never happen in West Bengal," he said, adding that steps should be taken to ensure that the people return to their homes.

Taking stock: C.V. Ananda Bose meets the displaced families at a shelter home in Malda on Friday. ANI

While the Governor met people in the relief camp, a group of protesters asked why reporters had not been allowed inside the camp with him.

The NHRC had taken *suo motu* cognisance of the violence at Murshidabad and the members of the NHRC team spoke to families taking shelter in the Parlalpur High School in Malda. The NCW delegation, led by Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar, also met the families affected.

"We have received reports that women in the affected areas and relief camps are not being treated properly. The NCW has formed an inquiry committee. We will speak to the victims and assess the situation before submitting a detailed report," Ms. Rahatkar told media persons while leaving for Kolkata. The NCW team is expected to visit Murshidabad on Sunday.

'Fomenting trouble'

The Governor's visit and the presence of members of the NCW and NHRC in Malda evoked a strong response from the leaders of the ruling Trinamool Congress, who accused the Governor of acting in an "irresponsible manner".

"When the CM had requested him, he should have honoured it. But his intention is to create tensions in the area and create trouble. The NCW and NHRC teams are also visiting the area to help the BJP foment more trouble, and they don't want restoration of normalcy in the area," Trinamool Congress MP Sougata Roy said.

Yusuf Pathan faces backlash over 'silence' on violence

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Yusuf Pathan, West Bengal's Behrampore Lok Sabha MP and Trinamool Congress leader, found himself on the receiving end of criticism for remaining silent about the communal violence in Murshidabad, a place not far from his constituency.

"TMC MP @iamyusufpathan is posting picture of him sipping tea and 'soaking in the moment' while Hindus are getting slaughtered in Malda-Murshidabad region!" BJP State chief and MP Sukanta Majumdar said on X after Mr. Pathan posted a personal photo on social media on April 11.

Senior Trinamool leader Abu Taher Khan came to Mr. Pathan's defence. "Yusuf Pathan is a sportsman. He is busy with cricket and sports. What will he do coming here?" he told *The Hindu*.

However, Trinamool leader Humayun Kabir said that if an MP did not stand by his people during tough times, then it would reflect badly during elections.

Spoke to Elon Musk on collaboration in technology: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said he had a phone call with U.S. presidential adviser and businessman Elon Musk.

"Spoke to @elonmusk and talked about various issues, including the topics we covered during our meeting in Washington DC earlier this year," Mr. Modi said on X. "We discussed the immense potential for collaboration in the areas of technology and innovation. India remains committed to advancing our partnerships with the U.S. in these domains."

Mr. Modi did not provide further details of the call, and as of press time, Mr. Musk had not shared any information on the call either.

Narendra Modi had met Elon Musk during a visit to the U.S. on February 13.

Mr. Musk's firms, the car company Tesla, and the satellite internet provider Starlink, are looking to enter the Indian market. While Tesla is actively hiring, there has been little movement on Starlink's application for authorisation from the Department of Telecommunications. Starlink executives met with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal this week.

FBI arrests suspected BKI operative wanted in Punjab terror attack cases

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Enforcement and Removal Operations of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Friday arrested "terrorist" Harpreet Singh, aka Happy Passia, in the United States. He was wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Punjab police in several cases of terror attacks.

"Today, Harpreet Singh, an alleged terrorist responsible for terror attacks in Punjab, India, was arrested by the #FBI & #ERO in Sacramento. Linked to two international terrorist groups, he entered the U.S. illegally and used burner phones to evade capture," posted the FBI Sacramento, confirming the development.

In custody: FBI and ERO personnel with Harpreet Singh, after his arrest, in California on Friday. ANI

Through his official X handle, Punjab Director-General of Police Gaurav Yadav said Happy Passia is a U.S.-based "key operative of ISI-backed Babbar Khalsa International (BKI)" and close associate of Pakistan-based designated terrorist Harwinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda. He described the arrest as "a major milestone in the sustained crackdown on ISI-backed terror networks".

"Between 2023-2025, Happy Passia played a central role in orchestrating targeted killings, grenade attacks on police establishments, and extortion across Punjab and other States. His arrest on April 17, 2025, in Sacramento, USA by FBI & ICE, is the outcome of excellent international cooperation and exchange of information between the United States & India. @PunjabPoliceInd consistently shared intelligence with the central agencies," Mr. Yadav said.

A 29-year-old "gangster-turned-terrorist", Passia was allegedly involved in 16 terror attacks, including 14 grenade attacks in Punjab.

The NIA had announced a reward of ₹5 lakh for his arrest in connection with a hand grenade attack on a house in Chandigarh in September 2024.

According to the agencies, the accused had gone to Dubai in April 2018, from where he returned in February 2019 and then went to the United Kingdom in October 2020, before he shifted to the U.S. It is suspected that Passia initially was associated with the members of Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang.

Homebuyers can protest against their builders: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has upheld the right of homebuyers to peacefully protest against builders, saying portraying their right to free speech as a criminal offence is a clear abuse of the law.

"A right to protest peacefully without falling foul of the law is a corresponding right, which the consumers ought to possess just as the seller enjoys his right to commercial speech. Any attempt to portray them as criminal offences, when the necessary ingredients are not made out, would be a clear abuse of process and should be nipped in the bud," a Bench headed by Justice K.V. Viswanathan observed in a recent judgment.

The case stemmed from a unique manner of protest employed by unhappy homebuyers against a builder, A. Surti Developers.

Finance Ministry gets several new appointees in reshuffle of bureaucrats

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Friday undertook a sweeping reshuffle of senior bureaucratic positions across various Ministries, with the Finance Ministry getting several new appointees. Arvind Shrivastava will assume the role of Secretary, Department of Revenue, and Vumlunmang Vualnam will take over as Secretary, Department of Expenditure.

Mr. Shrivastava, IAS officer from Karnataka batch of 1994, will move to the Finance Ministry from the Prime Minister's Office, where he was Additional Secretary. He replaces Manoj Govil, who will move to the Cabinet Secretariat.

Anuradha Thakur, who is an IAS officer of the 1994 batch of Himachal Pradesh cadre, will assume charge as Officer on Special Duty

Arvind Shrivastava

in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India. She will take over as Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs when Ajay Seth superannuates on June 30, 2025. Ms. Thakur was earlier the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Rajesh Agarwal, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, has now been made Special Secretary in the same Department. The officer will take over as Secretary, Department of Commerce, after the superannuation of Sunil Barthwal, on September 30, 2025.

Samir Kumar Sinha will take charge as the Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation. He holds the position of Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition), Department of Defence. Vandana Gurnana will take over as Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment. She holds the position of Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat.

Rakesh Kumar Verma, an IAS officer of the 1993 batch from the Punjab cadre, will be Director General, India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management, in the rank of Secretary. He earlier held the post of Additional Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

BCI condemns attack on its co-chairman Sadashiva Reddy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bar Council of India (BCI) has condemned the attack on its co-chairman, Y.R. Sadashiva Reddy, a senior advocate, at his private office in Bengaluru on April 16.

In a statement, BCI chairperson Manan Kumar Mishra stated that the injuries suffered by Mr. Reddy were "not random injuries, these were blows aimed at silencing, at crippling, and at intimidating a senior advocate and an elected representative of the legal fraternity". Mr. Reddy was elected to the BCI from the Karnataka State Bar Council (KSBC).

As per the First Information Report (FIR) registered by the Halasurgate police in Bengaluru city, two persons came to Mr. Reddy's office around 8.30 a.m. and assaulted him with fibre pipes, allegedly in a bid to murder him. Mr. Reddy suffered grievous injuries, including a fracture to his hand, it noted.

During the attack, one of the assailants reportedly mentioned that Mr. Reddy had failed to consider his mother's complaint to the KSBC two years ago about a relationship with a senior advocate who had since passed away. The assailant held Mr. Reddy responsible for not being able to acquire the assets of the deceased lawyer.

Mr. Reddy had also stated that a person, claiming to be the son of E. Rose Mary, had telephoned him on April 15, seeking an appointment to discuss an urgent matter, and it was perhaps the same person who attacked him. Mr. Reddy had agreed to meet the caller in his office on the evening of April 16. The police registered a case under sections relating to attempt to murder, causing grievous injuries and criminal trespass of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and arrested one person.

Opposition parties criticise V-P Dhankhar's remarks against SC

Sibal says he has never seen a Rajya Sabha Chairman make such 'political statements'; DMK MP Wilson asks why Article 142 of Constitution that was invoked to provide relief in the Ram Janmabhoomi case is being dubbed a 'nuclear missile' now

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar's remark that Article 142 of the Constitution, which grants plenary powers to the Supreme Court, is a "nuclear missile against democratic forces", evoked sharp comments from the Opposition leaders on Friday.

Former Law Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal said he had never seen any Rajya Sabha Chairman make "political statements" of this nature, and stressed the non-partisan and equidistant character of the Chair.

The judiciary should not be attacked by the executive, especially two Ministers – Arjun Ram Meghwal and Kiren Rijiju – and the Chairman of the House, as the judiciary cannot defend itself, Mr. Sibal, an Independent member of the Rajya Sabha, said.

Addressing a group of interns on Thursday, Mr. Dhankhar questioned the Supreme Court judgment that set a timeline for the President and Governor to take decisions on Bills passed by the State Assemblies. He also remarked that the top court acted as a "super Parliament".

'Independence is key'

"Independence of the judiciary is fundamental to democracy in the country. What is being done is unconstitutional," Mr. Sibal said.

The former Law Minister added, "I feel that when government people do not like the decisions of the judiciary, then they start accusing that it [judiciary] has gone beyond its limit. When they like it and the Opposition says something, then they say it is the decision of the Supreme Court."

DMK Rajya Sabha MP P. Wilson, who was among counsel arguing on behalf of the Tamil Nadu government in the case involving the Governor's powers, said that though Article 142 is sparingly used by the top court, this was not the first time it had been utilised. "The Supreme Court invoked Article 142 to provide equitable relief beyond the strict adjudication of title in the *Ram Janmabhoomi* case. How is it that the same Article is branded a 'nuclear missile' today," Mr. Wilson asked.

'Courageous order'

Congress Rajya Sabha member Randeep Surjewala said the Supreme Court's order on the Governor and the President was "timely, accurate and courageous, and corrected the notion that 'those holding high offices are above any fetters or imposition of checks and balances' in exercise of their powers".

"In our democracy, only the Constitution of India is supreme and most elevated. No office, be it of President or Prime Minister, or Governor, is so elevated as to be above the fetters of constitutional propriety," Mr Surjewala said in a post on X, tagging the Vice-President's official handle.

CPI general secretary D. Raja said that in the Indian polity, it is the Constitution and not an individual that is supreme.

"The constitutional scheme of checks and balances is essential to the democratic structure. The Supreme Court justifiably cleared the way for the Bills that were obstructed or delayed undermining the legislative will of elected State governments," he said.

He also accused Mr. Dhankhar of "selective outrage", claiming that he did not allow a discussion on the "blatant communal and divisive remarks" of a sitting judge of the Allahabad High Court despite a motion signed by 55 Rajya Sabha MPs.

"We are in an era of politics where I believe all of us need to think and act sensitively. The executive too should not indulge in judicial overreach that we have seen in recent days," RJD MP Manoj K. Jha said.

Jaishankar must take up U.S. visa issue with Rubio, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over the American Immigration Lawyers Association's (AILA) claim that out of the 327 visa revocation cases of international students collected by it so far, 50% are Indians, the Congress on Friday asked whether External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will take up the issue with his U.S. counterpart, Marco Rubio.

'Random and unclear'

Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh shared a statement issued by the AILA on his X handle. "Out of the 327 visa revocation cases of international students collected by the organisation so far, 50% are Indians. The reasons for revocation are random and unclear. There is growing fear and apprehension. Will the External Affairs Minister take note and raise the concern with his U.S. counterpart?" Mr. Ramesh asked, tagging the Union Minister.

The statement issued by the AILA on Thursday stated: "The Department of State (DOS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are aggressively targeting international students, including those without a history of protest, for visa revocation, termination of their status, and removal."

American Immigration Lawyers Association has collected 327 reports of visa revocations.

The AILA collected 327 reports of visa revocations and Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) terminations from attorneys, students, and university employees, the statement said.

"Of these reports – 50% of these students were from India, followed by 14% from China. Other significant countries represented in this data include South Korea, Nepal, and Bangladesh," it added.

BJP slams Congress over *National Herald* case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP MP Anurag Thakur said on Friday the *National Herald* case, in which the Enforcement Directorate recently filed a chargesheet making accusations of money laundering against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, was "another chapter in the Congress model of corruption".

"Instead of waiving the loans of 1,000 shareholders of the AJL, the Congress formed a company whose shareholders were two former presidents of the Congress, and that company waived the loan of ₹90 crore by paying only ₹50 lakh, so that property worth ₹2,000 crore could be grabbed," he alleged.

"Is a political party permitted to extend loans to a company? If so, was any interest charged on the amount?" he said.

Asking whether the *National Herald* was even being printed, he questioned why the Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled States were giving funds to it in the form of government advertisements.

Tejashwi is the CM face of Opposition alliance, says RJD

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav is the chief ministerial face of the Opposition *Mahagathbandhan* alliance in Bihar, party spokesperson Manoj K. Jha said on Friday, asserting that this was a "natural truth", as irrefutable as the sun rising in the east.

Mr. Jha's statement came a day after Mr. Yadav, a former Deputy Chief Minister, was appointed the head of the INDIA bloc's coordination committee.

There was no open discussion about the chief ministerial candidate during the coordination committee meeting held at the RJD office on Thursday.

After the meeting, when journalists asked about the alliance's chief ministerial candidate, both Mr. Yadav and Bihar Congress incharge Krishna Allavaru evaded the question.

"The way the sun rises in the east, which is a natural truth, in the same way, it is a truth that the Chief Minister face of the *Mahagathbandhan* is Tejashwi Yadav," Mr. Jha said. Top RJD leaders, including party supremo Lalu Prasad, have consistently held that the Mr. Yadav will be the Chief Minister if the alliance is voted to power.

Tejashwi Yadav

On Waqf Act

Mr. Jha also slammed the Centre over the Waqf (Amendment) Act and welcomed the Supreme Court's direction on the matter. "This fight is not of Muslims but to save the shared heritage and strengthen the identity of the countrymen," Mr. Jha said.

He lashed out at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, claiming that he was keeping quiet about the Act despite knowing that it was unconstitutional.

Hindi cannot be imposed on Maharashtra students: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The BJP's agenda of pushing Hindu, Hindi, and Hindu Rashtra is unacceptable, says MPCC president

Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee president Harshavardhan Sapkal on Friday accused the BJP government in the State of trying to erase unity in diversity and demanded that the order making Hindi a compulsory third language from Classes 1 to 5 be withdrawn.

Calling the government's move hypocritical, Mr. Sapkal said, "On the one hand, there's talk of granting Marathi the status of a classical language, and on the other, efforts are being made to sideline it. Language is not just a medium of communication; it's a cultural expression."

"How are students expected to study other subjects when they're burdened with three compulsory languages? Regional languages must be respected. While other languages deserve appreciation too, the BJP's intent is to eliminate regional cultures and languages."

"The BJP's agenda of pushing Hindu, Hindi, and Hindu Rashtra is unacceptable, and the Congress strongly opposes it," he said, adding that the BJP was attempting to eliminate the very language in which Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj ran his Hindavi Swarajya. "This is a direct attack," said Mr. Sapkal.

India main player on world stage today: IGN Ambassador

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

Tareq AlBanai says he could not tell whether expansion of UNSC would take place by 2030 or any other year

If a decision is made on expanding the UN Security Council, "then surely" India will be a contender, Chair of Intergovernmental Negotiations on UNSC reforms said on Thursday.

"The goal of this reformed Council must be representative. Obviously, India is a main player on the world stage today. But it [UN] is a membership of 193 countries. The consideration is representative for everybody and the whole membership of the United Nations," Ambassador Tareq AlBanai said at a press briefing here.

"So surely, if the decision is made that expansion of the Council goes from anywhere from 21 to 27 members, then surely India will be a contender in that and will be subject to the decision of the wider membership," Mr. AlBanai said.

Mr. AlBanai, who is Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN, recalled that last year he and co-Chair Ambassador Alexander Marschik of Austria had visited India and had a conversation there "at the highest level" on the issue of UNSC reform.

Mr. AlBanai, however, said he could not tell whether the reform would take place by 2030 or any other year.

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Bids are invited from reputed and experienced Consultants for **"Preparation of Cruise Tourism Policy and Shelf of Projects for Gujarat Tourism"**
The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender documents, which shall be available for download from the websites:**https://tender.nprocure.com/** and **https://www.gujarattourism.com** from **19/04/2025 onwards.**
The last date for submission of the **Technical Bid and Financial Bid (online only) is 19/05/2025 up to 6:00 pm. and Technical Bid (physical only) is 21/05/2025 up to 3:00 pm.**
Managing Director

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"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in/** respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, **www.centralcoalfields.in)**, CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**."

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252613 000501	Procurement of Alkaline Sizing Chemicals with Alkyl Ketene Dimer (AKD) for PM# 1, 2 & 3	02.05.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/1612/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

CSIR-CENTRAL BUILDING RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
ROORKEE - 247 667
(Website : www.cbri.res.in)

Advertisement No: CSIR-CBRI -6/2025
Start Date for Registration & Submission of online Application : 19.04.2025 (1730 hours)
Last Date for Registration & Submission of Online application : 18.05.2025 (1730 hours)
http://cbri.res.in/notifications/recruitments

The Director, CSIR-CBRI invites applications from suitably qualified, dynamic, result-oriented and dedicated Indian citizens for the following vacant posts on direct recruitment basis:
The emoluments and age limit for various posts, as per norms, are summarized hereunder:

Post code	Name of the Post	No. of Posts & reservation	Pay Matrix Level (in CPC)	**Total Emoluments per month (Approx.)	***Upper Age Limit not exceeding (as on last date for submission of Online Applications)
SEC-2025	Security Officer	Total Post -01 (UR)	Pay Matrix level -7 (Rs.44900-142400)	Rs. 44900/-(basic)+ usual allowances as admissible at Roorkee.	35 years
HO-2025	Hindi Officer	Total Post-01 (UR)	Pay Matrix level -10 (Rs.56100-177500)	Rs.56100/-(basic)+ usual allowances as admissible at Roorkee.	35 years
JHT-2025	Junior Hindi Translator	Total Post-02 [(01-UR, 01-OBC(NCL)]	Pay Matrix level -6 (Rs.35400-112400)	Rs.35400/-(basic)+ usual allowances as admissible at Roorkee.	30 years

For detailed advertisement & other information please view our website : www.cbri.res.in.
Controller of Administration

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti - 584 115, Raichur Dist., Karnataka State. Ph: (08537) 275463, 276339, Fax:(08537)275048, 275054
e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.29/24-25 Dt: 19.04.2025
(Through KPP Portal only)

Tender is invited by "The Senior Manager (Materials)" for the procurement of following Indents.

Sl. No.	Description	EMD in Rs.
1	Supply of buckets for underground LHDS as per drawing. **HGML/2024-25/IND0265.**	2,09,000/-
2	Supply of manpower for the services like civil repair works, electrical work and pipeline repair or maintenance work for the colony qtrs. and other buildings and operation and maintenance of bio gas. **HGML/2024-25/SE0045.**	3,05,000/-
3	Ore Transportation from New Projects to Hutti **HGML/2024-25/SE0046.**	4,72,000/-

Calendar of events: (1) Pre-Bid Meetings (Zoom): **21.04.2025 for Sl.No.1 at 11.00 AM, Sl.No.2 at 11.30 AM and Sl.No.3 at 12.00 PM (2)** Last date for receipt of tender: **19.05.2025 at 4.00 P.M (3)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **21.05.2025 at 10.00 A.M**
For further details interested bidders are advised to log on to website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in KPP Portal.
Sd/-Senior Manager (Materials)
LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA

MSME Technology Development Centre
Process & Product Development Centre, Agra
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
Extension Centre - Ettumanoor Organizes 02 online training program on

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION

COURSE CONTENT: ▪ Intro to Hospital Administration(HM) ▪ Hospital organigram ▪ Financial Management ▪ HR, Team, Performance, Comm. Management ▪ Hospital QA/QC ▪ Quality Performance indicators ▪ Patient care management ▪ Facility Management ▪ Regulatory compliance ▪ Hospital Info Systems ▪ Community & Public Relations ▪ Disaster planning & response ▪ Hospital emergency codes ▪ Contract/outsourced services
For Registration
DATE: 26th & 27th April 2025 **FEES:** 1,180/- *(Incl. of GST)*
TIME: **Sat**(06:30pm - 09:30pm) & **Sun**(10am to 01pm)

DIGITAL MARKETING

For Registration
COURSE COVERAGE: ▪ Introduction to AI in Digital Marketing ▪ Automation in Digital Marketing ▪ AI in Content Marketing ▪ AI in Advertising and Targeting ▪ Data Analytics and Decision -making ▪ Ethical Considerations in AI and Automation ▪ Future Trends and Innovations
Hands on Training Program: Laptop or PC Required
DATE: 28th 29th & 30th April 2025 (03 Days)
FEES: 2,360/- *(Incl. of GST)* **TIME:** 06 PM *to* 09 PM
website: www.ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
Contact Number: 9092176009 / 9750747571
CERTIFICATION WILL BE AWARDED

INBRIEF

33 Maoists surrender in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district

Thirty-three Maoists, 17 of them carrying a total bounty of ₹49 lakh, surrendered before security forces in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh on Friday, police said. Among them, 22 cadres, including nine women, surrendered before senior officials of the police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Eleven others, including two women, all hailing from a single village, surrendered before the police under the Elvad Panchayat scheme, which is a part of the Chhattisgarh government's surrender and rehabilitation policy that incentivises bulk surrenders. Under this, development works worth ₹1 crore are sanctioned for "Maoism-free" village or villages under one panchayat.

No GST on UPI transactions over ₹2,000, Centre clarifies

The government on Friday clarified that it is not mulling to levy GST on UPI transactions above ₹2,000. Referring to reports, which said that the government is considering levying Goods and Services Tax (GST) on UPI transactions over ₹2,000, the Finance Ministry said they are completely false, misleading, and without any basis. "Currently, there is no such proposal before the government," the Ministry said in a statement. GST is levied on charges, such as the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR), relating to payments made using certain instruments. Effective January 2020, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has removed the MDR on person-to-merchant (P2M) UPI transactions.

Two cheetahs to be moved from Kuno to Gandhi Sagar

Two cheetahs will be moved from Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park to the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary on April 20, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said on Friday, announcing the release of the big cats into their second home since their reintroduction to the country in 2022. "The State government is committed to developing Kuno National Park as a model wildlife tourism destination," Mr. Yadav said. Gandhi Sagar Division Forest Officer (DFO) Sanjay Raikhere told *The Hindu* that two male cheetahs have been identified at Kuno to be brought there.

DGCA orders probe into Air India Express pilot's death

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has launched an investigation into the death of an Air India Express pilot who suffered a heart attack aboard an aircraft shortly after landing in Delhi last week. The probe will examine allegations of delayed medical response and poor preparedness at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. Armaan, a 36-year-old First Officer, died aboard the plane on April 9 after flying the Air India Express Srinagar-Delhi flight IX 1153. Armaan's family has claimed that it took nearly 40 minutes for the emergency response team to rush him to the medical facility at the airport.

NCERT insists all new school textbooks were 'named thoughtfully'

Amid row over use of Hindi names for English textbooks, NCERT says the titles reflect diversity and unity; it adds that names were chosen for their cultural, linguistic, pedagogical significance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The titles are a reflection of India's diversity and unity, fostering a joyful learning experience for all students, says NCERT. FILE PHOTO

The new school textbooks have been thoughtfully named to convey rootedness in India's culture and knowledge systems and the titles are from Indian languages and not specifically Hindi, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has stated.

It was responding to the row that has erupted over the alleged use of Hindi titles for English books. The NCERT said the chosen titles were not indicative of a linguistic preference but were instead selected for their cultural, linguistic, and pedagogical significance.

The English textbook for Classes 1 and 2 is titled *Mridang*, which has been derived from Mridangam, a widely recognised percussion instrument associated with Carnatic music, it said.

The Class 3 English textbook is titled *Santoor*, a name of a musical instrument believed to have Persian origins, while the maths textbook is titled *Maths Mela*, which is an amalgamation of an English and a Hindi word. Similarly, the Class 3 Hindi textbook is titled *Veena*, while Urdu textbook is titled *Sitar*.

Titles such as *Santoor* are inspired by elements of India's musical heritage, which are ubiquitous across country's various linguistic and cultural traditions, the NCERT said. It added that the titles were reflective of India's diversity and unity, fostering a joyful and culturally contextualised learning experience for all students.

The English textbook for Classes 6 and 7 is *Poorvi*, while the Class 6 maths textbook is titled *Ganita Prakash*.

Similarly, the arts textbook for Class 6 is titled *Kriti-I*. The NCERT said *Kriti* is a Sanskrit common noun for creation or work, while *Poorvi* is the name of a raga, traditionally sung at dusk.

A. Saravanan, DMK spokesperson, had said, "In Tamil, we use the word *Kanak*, for maths, so it (*Ganita Prakash*) does not represent us. BJP is not the sole repository to ensure that we follow the same culture, same language..."

Earlier this week, Kerala's General Education Minister V. Sivankutty criticised the NCERT for using Hindi titles for English books.

In response, the NCERT said the title *Ganita Prakash* draws from India's rich mathematical heritage. "The title has been chosen to attract the curiosity of children about the rich mathematical heritage of the country," it said.

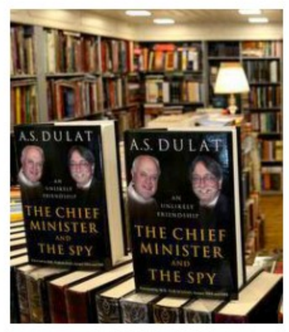
"Having Indian names for mathematics or English language textbooks shall not only promote pride in Indian languages and culture but also generate curiosity about our rich cultural and scientific heritage," it said.

Certain textbooks are named in English – for instance, the Class 8 English textbook is titled *Honeydew*, while the Class 9 English textbook is titled *Beehive*. The Class 10 English textbook is *First Flight*.

The NCERT has introduced new textbooks for Classes 1, 2, 3, and 6 aligned with the National Education Policy, 2020.

Former CJI, Farooq Abdullah skip Dulat's book launch event

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Copies of *The Chief Minister and The Spy* on display at a bookshop in Srinagar. PTI

Controversy plagued the launch of former RAW chief A.S. Dulat's new book, with key invitees – former Chief Justice of India T.S. Thakur and veteran politician Farooq Abdullah – staying away from the event.

The book *The Chief Minister and the Spy*, which was released in the national capital on Friday, draws heavily on the relationship Mr. Dulat shared with the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister.

Justice Thakur (retd) had been invited to the launch as the guest of honour, while Mr. Abdullah was scheduled to hold a discussion on the book.

The book had run into controversy over statements attributed to Mr. Abdullah on the revocation of Article 370 in 2019, which purportedly indicated that the veteran politician had "privately backed" the move. Amid the political furore, the National Conference patriarch had termed parts of the book a "figment of imagination".

In a letter to Mr. Dulat, Justice Thakur said: "While I had accepted your kind invitation to participate in the release function, I have since yesterday (Wednesday) seen a political storm brewing in the print and electronic media for certain parts of your book especially those attributing certain statements to Abdullah whom you admire and treat as a valued friend." Reacting to the former CJI's absence, Mr. Dulat said "the chief guest today is Kashmir".

On Mr. Abdullah's absence and the controversy surrounding the book, he said: "Somebody has picked up one para and are quoting it all wrong because English is a difficult language to understand."

He said one needs to read what comes before that and after that paragraph and then "if you come to the last page, you will understand what this book is all about". "It is about one of the tallest leaders of Kashmir who is a legend and what anyone says will not change that."

Doyen of angioplasty Mathew Samuel Kalarickal no more

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Eminent cardiologist Mathew Samuel Kalarickal, recognised as the 'Father of Angioplasty' in India, died at the Apollo Hospitals in Chennai on Friday after a brief illness. He was 77.

Dr. Kalarickal performed the first angioplasty in India in 1986. He was also instrumental in setting up and establishing angioplasty facilities in a number of countries in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Born in Kerala on January 6, 1948, he graduated from the Kottayam Medical College and completed his postgraduation and specialisation in cardiology in Chennai.

In an interview to The Hindu Group's *Frontline* in 1997, Dr. Kalarickal said he moved back to India from the U.S. in 1985, after training there under Andreas Gruentztig (considered the 'Father of Interventional Cardiology'). At that time, he had said that India was behind the U.S. and Europe by 10 years in the field of angioplasty, and so, he decided to come back and get angioplasty work started in the country. In the first year, 1986, he said, 18 patients were treated. By the following year, the number had shot up to 150.

Training doctors

Detailing the initial hurdles and how they were overcome, Dr. Kalarickal said he felt it was a moral obligation and commitment to the country to try to develop this additional method of treatment for heart patients, when the only options back then were bypass surgery or medical management. "The enormous satisfaction I derive from the achievement of establishing angioplasty in the country is beyond what money can buy," he had said. Dr. Kalarickal subsequently travelled extensively across India to teach and train doctors. He helped develop angioplasty programmes in countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia.

MATHEW SAMUEL KALARICKAL (1948-2025)

Sai Satish, senior interventional cardiologist, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai, who was trained by Dr. Kalarickal and who worked with him for two decades, said: "There will never be another Dr. Mathew Samuel Kalarickal in my life. He shaped me in ways few ever could, and I will miss him dearly every time I step into a cath lab."

Dr. Kalarickal was the recipient of a number of honours and awards, including the Padma Shri in 2000 and the prestigious Dr. B.C. Roy Award in 1996 as well as the Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*) by the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai, in June 2003.

He held a number of significant positions, including president, Asian-Pacific Society of Interventional Cardiology, from 1995 to 1997.

C.S. Lodha, advocate in Mumbai, was first treated by Dr. Kalarickal and went on to become a close friend. He said: "Dr. Mathew performed the first angioplasty in India. He was a pioneer there, and remained so even until 2020. There was no one who could even come close to him in India or even in Southeast Asia. He has treated a number of VIPs and everyone who was anyone in this country knew him. He was a great friend and a great family man. Though he had been ailing for a while, he continued to perform his duties as a doctor, and he has trained countless interventional cardiologists in the country."

'Brilliant physician'

N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Publishing Group, said: "I've known Dr. Mathew for about four decades. I'm yet to meet a more brilliant and caring physician. Dr. Mathew was a genius in his field."

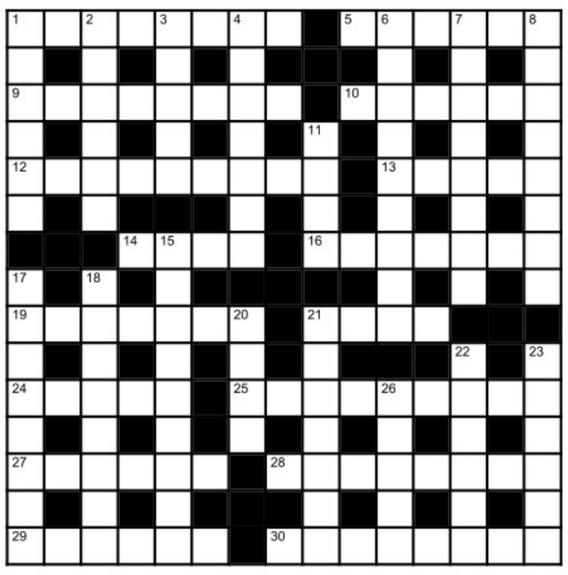
Dr. Kalarickal is survived by his wife Bina Mathew, daughter Anna Mathew and son Sam Mathew. The funeral will take place at the St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church in Kottayam on April 21. A memorial service will be held in Chennai at the Chetpet Mar Thoma Syrian Christian Church on April 26.

TH CROSSWORD + 14463

(set by KrisKross)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Problem in the auditorium - young man smuggling diamonds for VIP (8)
5 Wolf roved slyly around, cruel at heart (6)
9 10 prepared excellent sweet! (8)
10 A tailless bird at coasts of Mauritius causes a scare (6)
12 King soon winning chess, say, with initial moves (9)
13 At noon, he-man spending money for snack food (5)
14 Heads of universities suspending exams - definitely not new (4)
16 They escape from barbaric regimes (7)
19 Adventure of old airman - one going East (7)
21 Grass does go around! (4)
24 Bishop relaxed in airplane (5)
25 Working group in retreat ask for celebrations (4,5)
27 Part of flower is different, not round (6)
28 In translation, many authors primarily avoided aping Tamil language (3,5)
29 Scholarly lecturer retired and got paid (6)
30 Associate in support of wearing long apron (8)

Down

1 Repulsive dens hosting English TV show (6)
2 After brief attack, hastily leave Asian city (6)
3 Check handle of pump (5)
4 Exhausted daughter fell (7)
6 Say, way to conserve money plant (9)
7 Public resistance controlled by a guy (2,6)
8 Person struggling with extremely simple answer (8)
11 Married about hundred years ago (4)
15 Ideal doctor who's quiet, say (9)
17 Many words - "dashing", "brave", describing one dope, mostly (8)
18 Runner losing first of races, stopped by large fracture (8)
20 Transport kid on back of carriage (4)
21 Composer from Spain is sorely upset (7)
22 Crossing river, reached cave (6)
23 Former leader leaves after main meeting (6)
26 Knock down a chap casually (5)

SUDOKU

		1		5	6			
5			8	2			7	
2			3					
6		3					8	7
		5				6		
8	2					1		9
					3			8
	3			1	9			5
			5	6		9		

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

		L	O	C	O	M	O	T	I	V	E	S		
A		A		O		O		R		E		I		P
M	A	R	S	H		I	C	E	L	A	N	D	E	R
O		C		A		E		M		L		E		I
E	X	H	I	B	I	T	I	O	N		O	B	O	E
B				I		Y		L				O		S
A	D	M	I	T				R	O	C	K	S	A	L	T
		O		E						N		R		
P	O	O	P	D	E	C	K			O	R	D	E	R
A		T				R		A		W				A
S	O	P	S		F	E	R	T	I	L	I	S	E	R
T		O		T		A		H		E		W		E
E	T	I	Q	U	E	T	T	E		D	U	E	T	S
D		N		B		E		N		G		A		T
		T	R	A	N	S	P	A	R	E	N	T		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	5	6	8	3	9	2	1	4
3	1	9	2	6	4	7	8	5
2	8	4	5	1	7	6	3	9
8	7	3	1	2	5	4	9	6
6	4	2	9	7	8	1	5	3
5	9	1	3	4	6	8	7	2
4	6	8	7	9	3	5	2	1
1	3	7	4	5	2	9	6	8
9	2	5	6	8	1	3	4	7

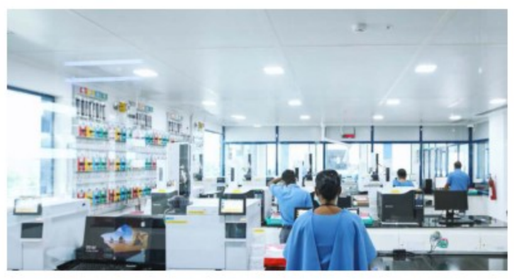
FAITH

The resurrected Christ

There would have been no Easter if the Gospels had ended with the words, "and they laid the body of Jesus in the tomb and departed", said W.J. Samuel. When Jesus was laid in the tomb that Friday evening, there was a common belief that this tomb was the final resting place of Jesus. His mission was terminated, cut short by His horrific execution, and now He was at peace.

The disciples of Jesus were not near the tomb. They were in Jerusalem, but they did not come to the tomb. One can say they were afraid of their own lives, after the manner in which Christ was executed. However, none of the others, not Joesph who gave his tomb to Jesus, not the two Marys, nor the disciples whom Jesus loved, gave importance to what Jesus had said – that He would arise from the dead. The people at the tomb did not remember it, or if they did, they did not give enough importance to the prophecy of Jesus. Otherwise, why would they all have left the tomb? Clearly, the enemies of Christ remembered His words. In 2 Timothy 1:10, the Bible says, "But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel." When the women from the tomb rushed to inform everyone that Jesus their Lord had risen from the dead and He is alive, the disciples were transformed. They went to different parts of the earth preaching the Gospel of Christ as He had commanded them. In John 11:25, Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believes in me though he were dead, yet shall he live." Dwelling with the resurrected Christ means a transformed life.

INBRIEF



Divi's, global pharma firm ink advanced intermediates pact

Divi's Laboratories has signed of long-term advanced intermediates manufacturing and supply pact with a global pharma company and plans to invest at least ₹650 crore, from internal accruals, on capacity expansion. In a filing on Friday, Divi's said it expects meaningful revenue contribution from the agreement. It is planning for capacity addition at its manufacturing facilities with an estimated ₹650-₹700 crore investment to be funded from internal accruals.

Aster DM, Quality Care India merger gets CCI approval

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed merger between Aster DM Healthcare Limited and Quality Care India Ltd., under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. The merged entity 'Aster DM Quality Care' would be controlled by Aster Promoters and Blackstone and brings together the strengths of two leading healthcare providers with a common vision of expanding access to high-quality medical care across the country, Aster DM said.

ICICI Pru Life gets ₹3.67-cr. tax order from GST authorities

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance on Friday said it has received an order from GST Commissioner (Appeals) upholding tax demand of about ₹3.67 crore. On July 2, 2024, Central Goods and Service Tax (CGST) authorities in Mumbai passed an order in this regard. The order denied part of service tax credit, which the firm migrated to the GST regime in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, when GST was unveiled. Subsequently, the firm filed an appeal before Commissioner (Appeals). PTI

Gold prices fixed by the London Bullion Market Association rose by 24% to $3,230 an ounce.

Gold imports surge on hope of jewellery sales revival

Suresh P. Iyengar
MUMBAI

Gold imports more than trebled to 52 tonne in March compared with 15 tonne in February despite a sharp rally in gold prices amid global uncertainties.

Jewellers are expecting the recent demand uptick to sustain as gold prices may take a breather with the trade war triggered by the U.S. settling down.

Consumers, holding back due to high prices, are now taking the plunge to buy whenever gold prices dip. Kavita Chacko, research head, India, World Gold Council (WGC), said there has been a clear shift in consumer behaviour in response to the soaring prices, with more buyers opting to exchange old jewellery for new.

Gold prices fixed by the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) have soared by 24% this year to $3,230 an ounce, with over 14% of this increase occurring since March.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

FY25 pharma exports cross $30 bn, surge 31% in March

A key component of India's trade basket, exports rose more than 9% to touch $30 billion for the first time; pharmaceuticals did not figure in the 26% U.S. tariffs, now on hold for 90 days

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

India's annual drug and pharmaceutical exports touched a record $30 billion in FY25 bolstered by a 31% year-on-year surge in March.

At $30467.32 million, the exports were 9.39% higher than the $27851.70 million clocked in FY24, official trade data recently released showed.

Pharma exports touched $30 billion for the first time. FY25 target was $29.38 billion, Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council Director General Raja Bhanu said.

Booster dose: Pharma exports in March rose 31.21% YoY to $3,681.51 million

Among the regions where the exports declined were Africa (-1.74%) and North East Asia (-4.30%)

March performance

The March performance stood out in a fiscal that will be remembered for the developments in the mainstay U.S. market even as India continued with efforts to tap into and build on the initial gains from new markets. If a shortage of generic prescription drugs in the U.S. raised hopes initially in the fiscal year, toward the year-end, the reciprocal 26% tariff President Donald Trump threatened to introduce had exporters scramble to ship more. Pharma, however, did not figure in the list of goods for which the levy was announced and put on hold for 90 days.

Pharma exports in March rose 31.21% YoY to $3,681.51 million ($2805.71 million). The next best performance during the fiscal came in January when the exports rose 21.47% to $2590.88 million ($2132.92 million). May was the other month when growth touched double digits (10.63% to $2305.56 million), while February was the only month when it contracted, 1.52% to $2474.22 million).

Beyond the U.S. factor, the FY25 exports came in the face of geopolitical tensions, economic slowdown and logistical challenges.

Product category

Granular details for March are awaited, Pharmexcil DG said. Data for April-February show drug formulations and biologicals as a product category led with $20118.18 million and accounted for more than 75% of the total exports. This category expanded by nearly 9% YoY.

Bulk drugs and drug intermediates exports were next highest, during the 11 months, rising 1.40% to $4319.30 million. Though the third-largest exported category, among pharmaceutical products, value of vaccines exports declined 4.20% to $1043.76 million.

Export of surgicals rose 5.16% and the value of exports stood at $683.47 million. Ayush and Herbal products exports grew 6.17% to $620.97 million. Total pharma exports upto February this fiscal increased 6.95% to $26785.69 million.

U.S. top market

The U.S. that remains the largest market for years now maintained its dominance accounting for more than one-third of Indian pharma exports. In value terms the increase in the exports to the U.S. was 14.29% at $8953.37 million ($7833.75 million). The U.K, Brazil, France and South Africa were others in the top five countries accounting together for less than 10.5% of the exports.

South Africa figured in the list despite contraction in exports by 1.78%. During the 11 months of the fiscal, the top 25 countries-markets where the exports declined were United Arab Emirates (by 17.70%); Turkey (16%); Sri Lanka (14.60%); The Netherlands (13.79%), China (10.60%) and Belgium (7.37%). The decline in the exports was 3.80% to Mexico and 0.14% to Thailand, official data showed.

Top regions

Regionwise, NAFTA, Europe, Africa and LAC were the four major regions together accounting for 76% of India's pharma exports. Of them NAFTA accounted for 36.60% with the exports increasing 14.06% to $9804.78 million.

Among regions where the exports declined were Africa (by 1.74%) and North East Asia (4.30%).

'Indian electronics manufacture trusted for respecting IP'

The Hindu Bureau
MANESAR, HARYANA

Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said Indian electronics manufacturers benefit from reliability and a respect for foreign firms' intellectual property (IP) rights. "In the last 10 years, production [of electronics] in India has increased five times to ₹11 lakh crore," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

The Minister was in Manesar for much of the day to inaugurate the Surface Mount Technology (SMT) line of VVDN Technologies, a firm that works on assembly operations for products like servers, laptops, printed circuit boards (PCBs), and CCTV cameras.

SMT is a technology to embed smaller components on PCBs. The firm has over 5,000 staff in Manesar to work on electronics manufacturing.

In India, "we have talent that can be used in design capabilities," Mr. Vaishnaw said, pointing to VVDN's workforce. "There are three levels of workforce required in electronics manufacturing," he said: onsite workers who can be trained quickly from ground up, precision tooling engineers and designing advanced components.

For the last bit, Mr. Vaishnaw said, electronic design automation tools had been acquired by the government and given free of cost to 240 universities.

Senvion India to instal 4.2 MW wind turbine in TN

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Senvion India will install a 4.2 MW wind turbine in Tamil Nadu by June, said its CEO and MD Amit Kansal.

Most of Senvion India's installation are in the 2.7 MW and 3.1 MW categories. It has already received nearly half a GW orders for the 4.2 MW turbines. The firm expects 70% of sales to come from this capacity in the coming months.

The 4.2 MW turbines are developed and made in India with Indo German technology. The total wind energy capacity installed by the firm in India is about one GW. It will install another one GW in 12 months, he said.

Age of the robots

Peek into the future: Journalists and others gather around a Panda robot as it waves while on display at Robot World in Beijing E-town in Beijing, China. Beijing will hold a half marathon on Saturday, where for the first time humanoids are set to participate. GETTY IMAGES

Engineering, textile and apparel exports increased by more than 6% in FY25

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Engineering, textile and apparel exports grew by more than 6% in 2024-2025 over the previous year, according to data shared by the Union Commerce Ministry.

Engineering goods shipments grew 6.74 % year-on-year in 2024-25 over the previous year, touching $116.67 billion in 2024-2025 compared with $109.3 billion in 2023-2024. Textile and apparel exports registered 6.32% growth in FY25 compared with FY24.

The increase was driven mainly by apparel exports, which grew by 10.03%.

However, the additional duties imposed by the U.S. on iron and steel and auto components are set to hit the engineering exports sector, according to EEPC India. There can be a potential annual drop of $4-5 billion in engineering shipments to the U.S. Besides, there will be massive competition from China in other markets as it will push its products, chasing new regions to de-risk the U.S., said Pankaj Chadha, chairman of EEPC India

Healthy trend: Textile and apparel exports registered 6.32% growth in FY25 compared with FY24. S. SIVA SARAVANAN

The impact of the ongoing trade tariff war is already visible. In March 2024, the value of Indian engineering goods exports declined almost 4% year-on-year to $10.82 billion compared with $11.27 billion in the same month last year, he said.

Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry Rakesh Mehra said the industry was optimistic about maintaining this growth trajectory, especially in light of evolving global trade dynamics.

"The trade tensions between the U.S. and China present a strategic opportunity for India. With the U.S. actively seeking to diversify its sourcing base beyond China, India is well-positioned to emerge as a reliable and preferred partner," he said.

Australia seeks to boost Air India, IndiGo direct flights to Sydney

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

With the number of Indian tourists to Australia rising in high double digits, Australian authorities are talking to Air India and IndiGo to offer more direct flights from India to Sydney, an Australian official said.

"The Western Sydney International Airport, located in Westen part of Sydney, has done trial runs with the first runway. It will be operational towards end 2026. Discussions are on with Air India and IndiGo to operate direct flights to this airport once they get new aircraft," said Samar Chokshi, country manager-India, destination NSW in an interview.

Indian tourists to Australia are growing in high double digits.

"The location of the new airport is interesting because it is close to Parramatta, where a lot of the Indian community stays. It is going to be very good for them when they travel to Sydney and New South Wales (NSW)," he added.

"It is going to be NSW's first ever 24-hour airport, so we would not have the issues of flights arriving late at night or early morning. Due to aviation rules flight operations are banned at the existing Sydney airport from 11 pm to 6 am every night," he said.

Currently, two direct flights operate between India and the Sydney airport. These include Air India operating a daily flight from New Delhi to Sydney using Dreamliners and Qantas operating daily in the Bengaluru-Sydney sector using the A330-300s.

So with the new airport coming into operation in 2026 and as and when Air India and IndiGo commence flights, the number of direct flights would double from now to Sydney.

Aside from the direct flights to Sydney, Indian travellers also fly by Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines, Thai Airways, Cathay Pacific, Scoot, Vietnam Airlines, Vietjet and Sri Lankan Airlines, which provide connectivity from multiple Indian cities to Sydney via one stopover.

"Travel to Australia from India is growing exponentially, we are growing in high double digits.," he said.

NCLAT sets aside BCCI, Riju plea on Byju's

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) set aside appeals of BCCI and Riju Raveendran for withdrawing insolvency proceedings against Byju's and consider settlement between the two.

They challenged the order of the National Company Law Tribunal, which, on February 10, asked them to place the settlement offer before the new Committee of Creditors in which U.S.-based Glas Trust, the lenders' trustee to which Byju's owes $1.2 billion, is a member.

TVS Motor rolls out 2025 edition of Apache RR310 at ₹2.78 lakh

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Two and three-wheeler manufacturer TVS Motor Company has rolled out the 2025 edition of its super premium motorcycle Apache RR310 equipped with a host of features and also adheres to OBD (on-board diagnostics)-2B norms, the company said.

The new variant is priced from ₹2,77,999 lakh (ex-showroom India), the city-based company said.

In a press release on Friday, TVS Motor said the Apache RR 310 would be available in three built-to-order customisation options. It comes with four riding modes – track, sport, urban and rain and offers 38 PS at 9,800 rpm. The new features added to the 2025 edition is launch control, cornering drag torque control, Gen-2 race computer, 8 spoke alloys among others.

The OBD-2B norms refers to on-board diagnostics conforming to stricter emission norms.

The company has introduced a new colour – Sepang Blue Race Replica colour scheme with the upgraded TVS Apache RR310, the company said.

ROME

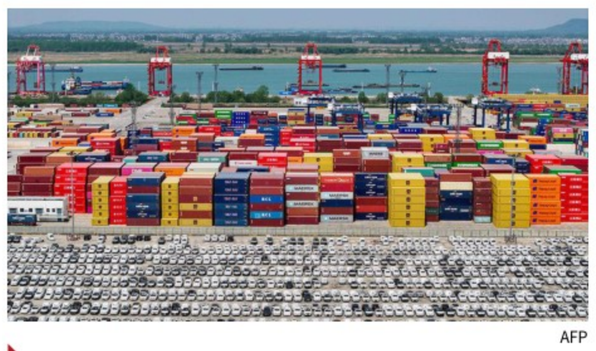
Vance visits Italy and Vatican after tangling with Pope on migration

AFP

U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance arrived in Rome on Friday for meetings with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin. No meeting with Pope Francis was scheduled. Pope and Mr. Vance have previously clashed over U.S. migration and deportation policies. AP

WASHINGTON

U.S. unveils new port fees of up to $1.5 mn for Chinese-linked ships



AFP

The U.S. unveiled new port fees targeting Chinese-built and operated ships on Thursday, aiming to counter China's dominance in shipbuilding and support domestic industry. Fees reach up to $1.5 million per port call for Chinese-built vessels, sparking warnings from Beijing about global supply chain disruptions. AFP

KARACHI

Mob beats to death man from Pakistan's Ahmadiyya minority

AFP

A mob led by Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) attacked an Ahmadi worship place in Karachi's Saddar area, killing one man and injuring others. Police rescued trapped Ahmadis, but the Human Rights Commission condemned the incident as state complicity in systematic persecution. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. judge limits Musk's DOGE access to social security data

AP

A federal judge on Thursday has barred Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) from accessing Americans' sensitive Social Security data, citing privacy violations. DOGE staff must delete any non-anonymised data, and may only receive redacted records after background checks and privacy training. AFP

Iran has 'serious doubts' over U.S. intentions ahead of talks, says FM

Tehran is seeking a peaceful resolution for its nuclear programme and has sought Russian support, says Foreign Minister Araghchi; he praised Russia's role in the 2015 deal that led to sanctions relief in return for limits on Iran's nuclear activities

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Friday cast doubt over the intentions of the United States a day before a second round of nuclear talks with Washington.

The new round will come a week after the long-time foes held their highest-level negotiations since U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned a landmark nuclear deal in 2018.

"Although we have serious doubts about the intentions and motivations of the American side, in any case we will participate in tomorrow's negotiations," Mr. Araghchi said during a press conference in Moscow with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

Mr. Araghchi will set off on Saturday for Rome for a fresh round of Omani-mediated talks with U.S. West Asia envoy Steve Witkoff.

"We are fully prepared to pursue a peaceful resolution for Iran's peaceful nuclear programme," Mr. Araghchi said.

Show of support: Abbas Araghchi with Sergei Lavrov during a joint press conference following their talks in Moscow on Friday. AFP

Russian support

Mr. Araghchi sought support from Russia over a peaceful deal and said he briefed Mr. Lavrov on the first round of talks. Mr. Araghchi praised Russia's role in Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers that led to lifting of sanctions in return for Tehran's cap on its nuclear activities.

Mr. Lavrov said Moscow was ready "to play any role that will be useful from Iran's point of view and that will be acceptable to the United States."

Russia, which commands the world's largest confirmed arsenal of nuclear weapons, has deepened its military ties with Iran since it launched its offensive on Ukraine in February 2022.

Western countries including the United States have long accused Iran of seeking to acquire nuclear weapons – an allegation Tehran has consistently denied, insisting that its programme is for peaceful civilian purposes.

On Tuesday, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said the country's military capabilities were off limits in the discussions.

25 killed in Gaza hits as U.S. envoy arrives in Jerusalem

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli air strikes across Gaza killed at least 25 people early Friday, including children, hospital workers said, as the new U.S. Ambassador to Israel made his first public appearance in Jerusalem.

The dead included 15 people killed in three strikes on the southern city of Khan Younis, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies. Ten people were killed in Jabaliya, including eight from the same home, according to the Indonesian Hospital, where the bodies were brought.

The strikes came a day after more than two dozen people died in Gaza as Israel ramps up attacks, pressuring Hamas to return the hostages and disarm.

Mike Huckabee

U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee on Friday appeared at the Western Wall, the holiest Jewish prayer site in Jerusalem's Old City. Mr. Huckabee inserted a prayer into the wall, which he said was handwritten by U.S. President Donald Trump.

"Those are his initials, D.T.," Mr. Huckabee said while showing the note to the media. In his first act as Ambassador, Mr. Huckabee said Mr. Trump told him to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Mr. Huckabee also said every effort was being made to bring the remaining hostages held by Hamas home.

Support for Israel

A one-time presidential hopeful, Mr. Huckabee has acknowledged his past support for Israel's right to annex the West Bank and incorporate its Palestinian population into Israel but said it would not be his "prerogative" to carry out that policy.

Mr. Huckabee's arrival comes at a pivotal time in the 18-month war, as international mediators including the U.S. are trying to get a broken ceasefire back on track.

Pakistan raises Kashmir issue during talks with Bangladesh

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of sharp exchange of words between Delhi and Dhaka over the condition of minority religious communities in each other's territories, Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday announced that Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch raised the Kashmir issue in the Pakistan-Bangladesh Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) that was held in Dhaka on Thursday.

A statement issued by the Pakistan's Foreign Ministry informed that the two sides also "reaffirmed" the need to revitalise SAARC (South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation). The Foreign Office Consultation is scheduled to be followed by a visit by Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar to Dhaka.

"On multilateral issues, both sides reaffirmed the need to revitalise SAARC in line with its founding principles. The Foreign Secretary appreciated the vision of the Bangladeshi leadership and expressed hope that the SAARC process would remain insulated from bilateral political considerations," a statement from Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced after the consultations that were the first such exchange held in 15 years.

Open talks: Officials from Bangladesh and Pakistan during a Foreign Office Consultation in Dhaka on Thursday. AP

Summit on-hold

SAARC has remained frozen since the Islamabad SAARC summit failed to take place in 2016 after India cancelled participation following terror attacks against Indian military installations in Uri. Bangladesh and Bhutan too had withdrawn from the summit subsequently.

The discussion was held between two teams led by Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch on the Pakistani side and her Bangladesh counterpart Jashim Uddin.

Foreign Secretary Jashim Uddin raised "long outstanding historic issues" like "repatriation of stranded Pakistanis, division of assets, transfer of foreign aid that was meant for the victims of Cyclone Bhola of 1970, apology for the genocide committed by the then-Pakistan Armed Forces in 1971 and war reparation".

The Bangladeshi side however mentioned that the 9th meeting of the Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission (JEC) is going to be held in Islamabad "soonest".

The statement from the Bangladeshi side further informed that Bangladesh is committed to "promoting the objectives of the OIC Charter and supporting the cause of the Muslim Ummah".

China satellite firm aiding attacks by Houthis: U.S.

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

A Chinese satellite company is supporting attacks by Yemen's Houthis on American interests, the State Department said on Thursday, as the U.S. military announced strikes on a fuel port it said was used by the rebels.

The Houthis began targeting shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden in November 2023, claiming to act in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, and American forces have been hammering them with strikes in a bid to stop the attacks.

"Chang Guang Satellite Technology Company... is directly supporting Iran-backed Houthi terrorist attacks on U.S. interests," State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce told presspersons. "Their actions – and Beijing's support of the company, even after our private engagements with them – is yet another example of China's empty claims to support peace," she added.

A spokesperson of Beijing's Foreign Ministry said he was "not aware of the situation".

Never provided lethal weapons, says China

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Beijing on Friday denied giving any party in the Ukraine war lethal weapons, after President Zelenskyy claimed he had "information" that China was supplying arms to Russia.

"The Chinese side has never provided lethal weapons to any party in the conflict, and strictly controls dual-use items," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said.

China has portrayed itself as a neutral party in the three-year war.

TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM
e-Procurement Short Term Tender Notice
IFB No.01/2025-26 Dt.17.04.2025

Tender for the work of "**Removing of balance 32 old spillway gates and providing 32 new spillway gates of TB Dam**" is invited in respect of HW & HLC Division, TB Dam through `e-Procurement'.

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time:	19.04.2025 at 11:00 AM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time:	28.04.2025 at 3:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date & Time:	28.04.2025 at 5:30 PM
Date of opening of PQ Stage:	28.04.2025 at 6:00 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage:	02.05.2025 at 11:00 AM

Further details can be seen
@ https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in

Ph: 08394 - 259114
Fax 08394 - 259167

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer**
I.B, TB Board, TB Dam

THE RIGHT NOTES

A big knock from Rohit is just round the corner, says Boucher

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Former South Africa cricketer Mark Boucher believes out-of-form Mumbai Indians veteran opener Rohit Sharma is showing signs of returning to rhythm in the IPL and a big knock is just round the corner. "We saw some good old-fashioned Rohit sixes," Boucher, a former MI head coach, said of Rohit's 16-ball 26 in the four-wicket win over SRH.

TOUGH TASK

Wasn't the easiest of wickets as the cutters were gripping: Cummins

EMMANUAL YOGINI

It wasn't the easiest of wickets and we fell a few short. It was a tricky wicket, cutters were gripping. They shut down a lot of our scoring areas. I thought we had all bases covered... with 160, you feel a little bit short, but I thought we gave it a good crack with the ball — SRH captain Pat Cummins after four-wicket loss to MI.

BACK IN THE MIX

Super Kings sign Brevis in place of the injured Gurjapneet

GETTY IMAGES

CSK signed South African batter Dewald Brevis as a replacement for the injured left-arm pacer Gurjapneet Singh. Brevis has previously been part of Mumbai Indians in the IPL where he played 10 games. The 21-year-old is expected to join the squad on Saturday but it's not clear if he will be available for Sunday's fixture against MI.

ALMOST THERE

We will surely see Mayank in LSG colours soon: Klusener

FILE PHOTO: SPORTZPICS/IPL

Mayank Yadav has been training with Lucknow Super Giants for the last two days after being cleared by BCCI's Centre of Excellence. LSG batting coach Lance Klusener, however, remained tight-lipped about his availability for the Rajasthan Royals game on Saturday. "I'm sure we'll see him in LSG colours soon," said Klusener.

Kings ensure Royal Challengers' wait for a maiden home win continues

Wadhera does the star turn for the visitor in a tricky chase; batting first turns out to be a tough ask for the Bengaluru outfit on a sticky wicket; fine bowling and catching make Punjab's job easy; David's fighting knock goes in vain; decision to drop Padikkal in a rain-affected game proves costly

Lead performers: Wadhera kept his cool to seal Kings' win. David waged a lone battle while Chahal excelled. K. MURALI KUMAR

IPL-18

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's home woes continued as the side slipped to a five-wicket defeat to Punjab Kings in the IPL here on Friday. RCB did put up a brave fight in defence of a 96-run target, but could not prevent a third straight loss at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium this season.

In a rain-affected outing, RCB was on the back foot right from the start, having lost a crucial toss. Batting first proved to be a tough ask on a sticky pitch, and the home team did itself no favour by making an odd change to the playing eleven. Southpaw Devdutt Padikkal was dropped in favour of leg-spinner Suyash Sharma even though it was RCB which took first strike.

The move proved to be disastrous as RCB crawled to 95 for nine in the reduced 14 overs.

In the chase, PBKS suffered a tremor when Shreyas Iyer and Josh Inglis were sent back in quick succession by Josh Hazlewood. Hopes of an RCB comeback, however, were dashed by a composed Nehal Wadhera (33 n.o., 19b, 3x4, 3x6).

After persistent rain delayed the start of play by over two hours, RCB openers Phil Salt and Virat Kohli finally made their way out to take strike. The sticky pitch made strokeplay near-impossible, but the RCB batters were not prepared to change their gameplan. Salt, Kohli and Liam Livingstone tried to force the pace and paid the price.

Length deliveries were skied without timing, resulting in catching practice. The PBKS fielders were up to the task, with Marco Jansen and Priyansh Arya pulling off fine catches to dismiss Kohli and Livingstone respectively.

RCB continued to lose wickets in a heap, a result of more reckless shots. When Impact Player and local lad Manoj Bhandage was removed by Jansen, RCB fell into a deep hole at 42 for seven.

The lowest T20 score recorded at this venue – 82 by RCB in the first ever IPL game, in 2008 – loomed perilously close.

It took a fighting unbeaten 50 from Tim David to keep RCB afloat, even if the ship would eventually sink.

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Phil Salt c Inglis b Arshdeep 4 *(4b, 1x4)*, Virat Kohli c Jansen b Arshdeep 1 *(3b)*, Rajat Patidar c Bartlett b Chahal 23 *(18b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Liam Livingstone c Priyansh b Bartlett 4 *(6b, 1x4)*, Jitesh Sharma c Wadhera b Chahal 2 *(7b)*, Krunal Pandya c & b Jansen 1 *(2b)*, Tim David (not out) 50 *(26b, 5x4, 3x6)*, Manoj Bhandage **(Impact Player for Livingstone)** lbw b Jansen 1 *(4b)*, Bhuvneshwar Kumar c Bartlett b Harpreet 8 *(13b, 1x4)*, Yash Dayal lbw b Harpreet 0 *(1b)*, Josh Hazlewood (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (nb-1): 1; Total (for nine wkts. in 14 overs): 95.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-4 (Salt, 0.4 overs), 2-21 (Kohli, 2.4), 3-26 (Livingstone, 3.6), 4-32 (Jitesh, 5.5), 5-33 (Krunal, 6.1), 6-41 (Patidar, 7.4), 7-42 (Bhandage, 8.2), 8-63 (Bhuvneshwar, 11.4), 9-63 (Dayal, 11.5).

KINGS BOWLING
Arshdeep 3-0-23-2, Bartlett 3-0-26-1, Jansen 3-0-10-2, Chahal 3-0-11-2, Harpreet 2-0-25-2.

PUNJAB KINGS
Priyansh Arya c David b Hazlewood 16 *(11b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Prabhsimran Singh **(Impact Player for Chahal)** c David b Bhuvneshwar 13 *(9b, 2x4)*, Shreyas Iyer c Jitesh b Hazlewood 7 *(10b)*, Josh Inglis c Suyash b Hazlewood 14 *(17b, 2x4)*, Nehal Wadhera (not out) 33 *(19b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Shashank Singh c Salt b Bhuvneshwar 1 *(5b)*, Marcus Stoinis (not out) 7 *(2b, 1x6)*; Extras (b-4, lb-1, w-2): 7; Total (for five wkts. in 12.1 overs): 98.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-22 (Prabhsimran, 2.4), 2-32 (Priyansh, 3.4), 3-52 (Shreyas, 7.4), 4-53 (Inglis, 7.6), 5-81 (Shashank, 11.3).

RCB BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 3-0-26-2, Dayal 2.1-0-18-0, Hazlewood 3-0-14-3, Krunal 1-0-10-0, Suyash 3-0-25-0.

Toss: PBKS.
PoM: David.
Punjab Kings won by five wickets with 11 balls to spare.

Next assignment
April 20: PBKS vs RCB
New Chandigarh, 3.30 p.m.

RR sweats over Samson's fitness ahead of LSG clash

Shayan Acharya
JAIPUR

As Rajasthan Royals gears up for its must-win Indian Premier League fixture against Lucknow Super Giants on Saturday, Sanju Samson remains a doubtful starter.

The Royals captain underwent scans after experiencing a bit of pain in the abdominal area during the previous game against Delhi Capitals, and the team is awaiting the test results.

If Samson fails to recover in time, it will be a huge blow for the Royals, who are struggling after just two wins from seven outings. With multiple changes in the order and inconsistent performances by the top batters, the Royals batting unit has failed to fire this season.

Samson. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Though Yashasvi Jaiswal seems to be slowly finding his mojo with two successive fifties, Riyan Parag, following a 573-run season last year, has failed to live up to the expectations.

Barring Jofra Archer, who has picked up five wickets in the PowerPlay, the rest of their bowlers have struggled, and as head coach Rahul Dravid said, the team needs to work on its execution with the ball in the death overs.

For LSG, Mitchell Marsh and Nicholas Pooran have been the standout batters, and on a slow Sawai Mansingh Stadium surface, it would be interesting to see how they approach their innings.

Despite its defeat against Chennai Super Kings, captain Rishabh Pant returned to form with a fifty and he will be hoping to get going. While suspense prevails over the availability of pacer Mayank Yadav, LSG will bank on spinner Digvesh Singh Rathi for breakthroughs.

Today's matches

Gujarat Titans vs Delhi Capitals
Ahmedabad, 3.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 5
GT 2 | DC 3
PREVIOUS MEETING
DC won by four runs, 2024

Rajasthan Royals vs Lucknow Super Giants
Jaipur, 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 5
RR 4 | LSG 1
PREVIOUS MEETING
RR won by seven wickets, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Gill's Titans, Axar's Capitals bank on collective effort in a battle of equals

Dhruva Prasad
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Titans and Delhi Capitals, sitting pretty in the top three of the Indian Premier League standings, are more than the sum of their parts.

While the evolution of slam-bang cricket glorifies runaway brilliance and outlandish guts, GT and DC exemplify the value of collective effort.

They will hope to reiterate that when they meet in an afternoon game at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Saturday.

With the mercury touching 40 degrees Celsius, it will be as much a test of fitness as of skill. Flexibility has been the hallmark of both sides, with different personnel rising to the occasion.

If Sai Sudharsan has done the bulk of the heavy lifting with four fifties in six innings, skipper Shubman Gill has also shouldered the PowerPlay responsibility while Jos Buttler has ensured the runs don't dry up through the middle. Jake Fraser-McGurk's lean run has prevented DC from haring off the blocks in the PowerPlay, but Axar Patel's men have made amends through a middle-order comprising the likes of K.L. Rahul, Tristan Stubbs and the skipper himself.

At a historically pace-friendly venue, DC's Mitchell Starc, fresh off a yorker-laden death-bowling masterclass against Rajasthan Royals, and GT's duo of Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna will headline an exciting subplot. Both teams have been vulnerable against spin, with DC losing half its side to the tweakers against Mumbai and GT succumbing to Digvesh Rathi and Ravi Bishnoi's guile in Lucknow.

Racing against time: DC opener du Plessis may make his return against GT. VIJAY SONEJI

Dravid brushes aside the talk of rift in Royals' camp as 'baseless'

Shayan Acharya
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Royals head coach Rahul Dravid rubbished rumours of a rift in the team and insisted that he was on the same page with captain Sanju Samson.

Following its defeat against Delhi Capitals a couple of days ago, several reports claimed that things were not well in the Royals camp.

However, terming those reports as baseless, Dravid said: "Sanju is an integral part of the decision-making. I have a good rapport with him. He is involved in each and every discussion and decision that we make."

It has been a dismal Indian Premier League season for the Royals, who are placed eighth in the points table, with just two wins from seven games. While Dravid remained hopeful of the team turning things around and moving into the playoffs, he also agreed that death bowling has been an area of concern.

Natural reaction

"Obviously, when you lose games and things don't go right, you face criticism and we are happy to face the criticism of not performing well or not doing well.

"That is something we can think about, but we cannot do anything about such baseless stuff (reports)," he said.

"The spirit in the team has been really good. I have been really impressed with the way the guys have worked so hard. One of the things people don't see is how much the players hurt themselves and how bad they feel. They have been feeling very bad especially after the last game".

All's well: Dravid and captain Samson share a light moment. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

INBRIEF

Jitu gave some useful tips before the WC: Suruchi

Teen shooting sensation Suruchi Singh's fingers already had the talent to execute any shot when she met Jitu Rai at the national camp but the "basic tips" from the pistol stalwart proved decisive at the ISSF World Cups in South America where she struck gold more than once. "Jitu gave me some basic tips, tips which have helped me immensely here and are important to rise in the sport. I followed his advice and reaped the reward," said Suruchi from Lima, where she has won two gold medals in the ISSF World Cup.

'No plans to race till 50... will take it season by season'

At 43, Fernando Alonso continues to defy age and push the boundaries of endurance in a Formula 1 car and while the two-time world champion doesn't see himself racing at 50, he plans to take it one season at a time once his Aston Martin contract runs out in 2026. "Not at 50 (racing), but I don't know. That's why we kept open the possibility as well. I wanted to race this year for sure and next year for sure because of the change of regulations," said Alonso.

Bayern's Stanisic apologises for pushing ball kid in CL loss

Bayern Munich defender Josip Stanisic has apologised for pushing a ball kid during the Champions League quarterfinal loss at Inter Milan. "It was maybe a bit stupid of me and I'm sorry that I pushed him," Stanisic said.

Pantsulaia wins title via tie-break rules

Levan Pantsulaia of Georgia emerged as the winner of the second Namma Bengaluru International grandmasters open chess tournament. With eight points, fifth seeded Pantsulaia tied for top place with Anuj Shirvatri and Alexei Fedorov of Belarus. Pantsulaia took the title on the basis of tie-break rules.

No need for big changes at Liverpool, says Slot

Liverpool manager Arne Slot believes maintaining the squad that is romping towards the Premier League title is more important than major new signings. "Let's see what the rest of the summer will bring but it would be strange for me to say now I am not happy with the team because I've said this for a year, we are happy with the team we are having," Slot said.

Chotrani, Anahat enter last four in contrasting style

Veer Chotrani and Anahat Singh advanced to the semifinals of the squash World Championship Qualifying Event (Asia) after registering contrasting wins here on Friday.

The results (quarterfinals): Men: Veer Chotrani bt Mohammad Syafiq Kamal (Mas) 9-11, 11-6, 11-6, 11-7.
Women: Anahat Singh bt Akari Midorikawa (Jpn) 11-1, 11-7, 11-5; Helen Tang (HKg) bt Tanvi Khanna 11-5, 11-6, 10-12, 11-9.

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
Formula One Saudi Arabia GP (Qualifying): F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 10.30 p.m.

Sunrisers batters have failed to adapt to different conditions, admits Vettori

The Hyderabad outfit remains the only team without an away win; the defeat to MI being the latest in a series of disappointing losses

IPL-18

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

As IPL 2025 approaches the halfway stage, Sunrisers Hyderabad's inability to repeat its 2024 heroics has been among the biggest talking points so far. One of the major reasons for Sunrisers languishing in ninth place in the 10-team tournament is their inability to win away from home.

In fact, Sunrisers remain the only team to have failed to win away from home.

Head coach Daniel Vettori admitted that they have been unable to adapt to different conditions. "There has to be more to it from our side that we have to adapt. We know that conditions like this exist in Chennai, sometimes (in) Ahmedabad. We are not expecting to go over around the country and come up on belters, so the ball is in our court to realise that," Vettori said after the four-wicket loss to Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday night.

Stark contrast

The tacky track where the ball stuck into the surface was in stark contrast to the usual belter at Wankhede. Add to it the prowess of the MI pacers in varying the speed without missing the length.

Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult lead from the front and Sunrisers' power-packed batting line-up could hardly break the shackles.

Element of luck

Should Vettori expect such slow surfaces that restricts Sunrisers' big-hitters? "No one really has control over their surface, so there is a little bit of luck involved in terms of coming up against wickets that don't suit us," he said.

Prized scalp: Klaasen is cleaned up by Bumrah. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Shriyanka finishes eighth

Sports Bureau

Shriyanka Sadangi made the final of the 50-metre rifle 3-position event with a score of 588, but placed eighth in the shooting World Cup in Lima, Peru, on Thursday.

Sagen Maddalena beat qualification topper Jeanette Duestad (594) by 1.9 point for the gold, that put USA further on top of the table with three gold, two silver and a bronze.

In the men's event, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (587), Niraj Kuar (587) and Chain Singh (586) placed 18th to 20th in that order.

India was second in the medals table with two gold, one silver and one bronze so far. China had one gold, one silver and three bronze, while Czech Republic had a gold and a bronze.

The results: 50m rifle 3-posiiton: Men: 1. Jiri Privratskay (Cze) 4622.8 (592), 2. Henrik Larsen (Nor) 461.6 (589), 3. Istvan Peni (Hun) 449.4 (593); 18. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar 587; 19. Niraj Kumar 587; 20. Chain Singh 586.
Women: 1. Sagen Maddalena (USA) 463.3 (589), 2. Jeanette Duestad (Nor) 461.4 (594), 3. Sara Karasova (Cze) 449.4 (588); 8. Shriyanka Sadangi 400.7 (588); 10. Ashi Chouksey 587; RPO: Manini Kaushik 589; Nischal 583.

Tapendra Ghai wins Calance Open golf

Ghai receives the trophy from Amit Govil, right, chairman Calance Group and Vijay Singh, vice-chairman, DDA. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

GOLF

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Tapendra Ghai endured tense moments in the climax before clinching the title with a one-shot margin following a par-70 in the fourth round of the ₹1 crore Calance Open at the Qutab Golf Course on Friday.

The 29-year-old Tapendra had an overall score of 17-under 263 for his second title on the PGTI tour after the one in 2018. He pocketed ₹15 lakh.

"It feels great to win after six years. I would like to thank my coach Ricky Jaswal for his support and guidance," said Tapendra, who had three birdies and three bogeys in the final round.

"It was a day when birdies were not easy. The par saves kept me in the game. I sank a couple of 15-footers for pars that gave me the confidence to get the job done," he said.

Honey Baisoya had a chance to force the playoff, but missed a birdie putt narrowly on the 18th.

He won ₹7,99,900 for finishing joint second with Arjun Prasad, who had the best card of the day at eight-under 62.

The leading scores: 1. Tapendra Ghai (64, 67, 62, 70) 263; 2T. Arjun Prasad (67, 68, 67, 62), Honey Baisoya (64, 68, 65, 67) 264; 4. Kshitij Naveed Kaul (68, 60, 73, 64) 265.

All eyes on McLaren, but Verstappen stays hopeful

FORMULA ONE

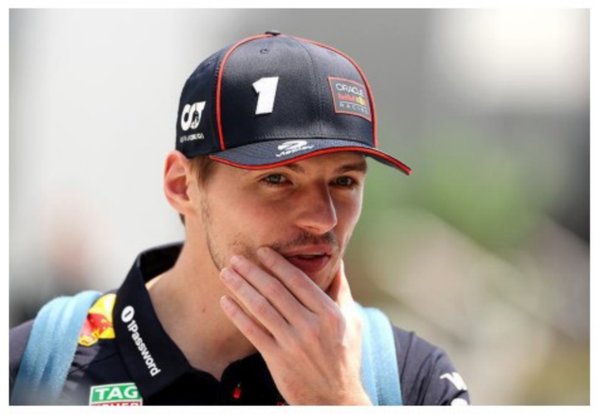
Associated Press
JEDDAH

Ahead of Sunday's Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, this Formula 1 season is looking like McLaren vs. McLaren. Still, defending champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull says he hasn't lost hope.

McLaren drivers Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri are the only one to consistently have the pace through the first four rounds of the championship. Norris has a three-point lead but admits he isn't at his best, while Piastri is the driver with momentum after winning in Bahrain last week.

Ferrari, Red Bull and Mercedes have all their had their moments, but none has been a consistent challenger, as McLaren's 58-point constructors' championship lead shows.

Verstappen is the only non-McLaren driver to win a Grand Prix this season, but in Bahrain he was struggling so much that Red Bull motorsport adviser Helmut Marko said he was concerned Verstappen might consider his future.



One step at a time: Verstappen said he wasn't considering the championship picture this early in the season. GETTY IMAGES

Verstappen said this week he wasn't considering the championship picture this early in the season.

"I'm not thinking about that. I just go race by race," Verstappen said. "I think at the moment, of course, we are not the quickest. So then naturally, it's very tough to fight for a championship, but it's still a very long road... I'm hopeful that we can still improve things and we'll see what we get."

Two-time champion Fernando Alonso dampened speculation Verstappen could seek to join his team, Aston Martin, after Red Bull car designer Adrian Newey made that move last year.

Asked if he'd welcome being Verstappen's teammate, Alonso said Thursday: "Yes, but it's unlikely to happen. Very unlikely." Alonso's current teammate is Lance Stroll, son of team owner Lawrence Stroll.

Jeddah hosts the fifth race in six weeks in a hectic start to the season, which stays at a record 24 races. There's a little respite after Saudi Arabia, with two weeks till the next race in Miami.

"I think it's on the upper end of the limit. It feels like race 10 already," said Williams driver Alex Albon.

Man Utd beats Lyon in epic, Spurs, Athletic reach semis

EUROPA LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Harry Maguire headed in the winner as Manchester United produced an astonishing extra-time comeback on Thursday to beat Lyon and set up a Europa League semifinal against Athletic Bilbao, while Tottenham Hotspur is also through to the last four after beating Eintracht Frankfurt.

Maguire's header in added time in extra time gave United a 5-4 win on the night at Old Trafford, and a 7-6 triumph on aggregate.

It appeared to be cruising towards the last four when, after a 2-2 first-leg draw last week in France, Manuel Ugarte turned in an Alejandro Garnacho cutback on 10 minutes and then Diogo Dalot fired home in first-half injury time.

Corentin Tolisso's headed goal on 71 minutes gave Lyon hope.

Nicolas Tagliafico then levelled the scores on the night, and in the tie, with 12 minutes of normal time remaining, his shot crossing the line before goalkeeper Andre Onana got a hand to it.

Lyon then had Tolisso sent off for a second yellow card just before the end of normal time, but it went 3-2 up when Rayan Cherki fired in. Alexandre Lacazette netted a penalty to make it 4-2 on the night, and 6-4 on aggregate.

However, almost from the restart the host was awarded a penalty and Fernandes converted to give it renewed hope.

A fine finish by substitute Kobbie Mainoo levelled the tie again in the 120th minute, before Maguire had the last word.

Man of the moment: Maguire, left, sparks delirium in the United camp after heading in the winner deep into stoppage time. AP

The results (quarterfinals, second leg): Athletic Bilbao 2 (Sancet 45+4-pen, Nico Williams 80) bt Rangers 0. *Athletic won 2-0 on aggregate*; Eintracht Frankfurt 0 lost to Tottenham Hotspur 1 (Solanke 43-pen). *Tottenham won 2-1 on aggregate*; Lazio 3 (Castellanos 21, Noslin 90+3, Dia 100) bt Bodo/Glimt 1 (Helmersen 109). *After extra time, tie finished 3-3 on aggregate. Bodo/Glimt won 3-2 on penalties.*

Manchester United 5 (Ugarte 10, Dalot 45+1, Fernandes 114-pen, Mainoo 120, Maguire 120+1) bt Lyon 4 (Tolisso 71, Tagliafico 78, Cherki 105, Lacazette 110-pen). *After extra time, Man Utd won 7-6 on aggregate.*

SNAPSHOTS

Zhu stays ahead of Humpy and Divya

Zhu Jiner maintained her sole lead with 4 points at the end of the fifth round of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix at Amanora-The Fern, Pune, on Friday. The Indian duo of Koneru Humpy and Divya Deshmukh are in joint second position just half-a-point behind.

On a day on which there was just one decisive result – R. Vaishali scored a much needed win against Munguntuul Batkhuyag of Mongolia – top-seeded Humpy drew with D. Harika, while the second-seeded Zhu split the point with Nurgyul Salimova of Bulgaria. Saturday is a rest day.

The results (fifth round): Alina Kashlinskaya (Pol) 1 drew with Salome Melia (Geo) 1.5; Nurgyul Salimova (Bul) 2.5 drew with Zhu Jiner (Chn) 4; R. Vaishali 2.5 bt Munguntuul Batkhuyag (Mng) 2; Koneru Humpy 3.5 drew with D. Harika 2.5; Divya Deshmukh 3.5 drew with Polina Shuvalova (Rus) 2.5.

Poonacha-Gornes pair in last four at Oeiras

Niki Poonacha in partnership with Sergio Gornes of Spain beat Francisco Rocha and Henrique Rocha 6-2, 6-4 in the doubles quarterfinals of the €181,250 Challenger tennis tournament in Oeiras, Portugal.

The results: €181,250 Challenger, Oeiras, Portugal: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Niki Poonacha & Sergio Gornes (Esp) bt Francisco Rocha & Henrique Rocha (Por) 6-2, 6-4;
Pre-quarterfinals: Gastao Elias & Tiago Pereira (Por) bt Siddhant Banthia & Tristan Boyer (USA) 3-6, 6-1, [10-6]; Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Vijay Sundar Prashanth w.o. Jerome Kym (Sui) & Carlos Taberner (Esp).
$60,000 Challenger, Abidjan, Ivory Coast: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Matt Hulme (Aus) & Thijmen Loof (Ned) bt Aleksandre Bakshi (Geo) & Prajwal Dev 6-1, 7-6(4).
$30,000 ITF men, Santa Margherita di Pula, Italy: First round: Manas Dhamne bt Raul Brancaccio (Ita) 6-2, 7-6(3).
€173,913 WTA, Oeiras, Portugal: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Alevtina Ibragimova & Lian Tran (Ned) bt Rutuja Bhosale & Paige Hourigan (Nzl) 1-6, 6-2, [10-7].
$60,000 ITF women, Calvi, France: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Riya Bhatia & Sada Nahimana (Bdi) w.o. Alyssa Reguer (Fra) & Camilla Zanolini (Ita).
$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Pre-quarterfinals: Johanne Svendsen (Den) bt Tanisha Kashyap 7-5, 6-3.
Doubles: Quarterfinals: Zeel Desai & Anastasia Gureva bt Alessia Popescu (Rou) & Liel Rothensteiner (Aut) 6-3, 6-2; Vilma Hyllested & Johanne Svendsen (Den) bt Valentina Losciale (Ita) & Saumya Vig 6-1, 6-2.

Ukrainian player Tsurenko sues WTA for causing "emotional distress"

Ukrainian tennis player Lesia Tsurenko has filed an amended lawsuit that accuses the WTA Tour and its chairman, Steve Simon, of a breach of contract, negligence and the "negligent infliction of emotional distress" because of the way it has handled Russian and Belarusian players amid the war in Ukraine.

Tsurenko, who was once among the world's top 25, claims in the lawsuit that WTA executives – including Simon, who was its CEO at the time – failed to follow through on assurances made in a meeting with Ukrainian players that the organisation would ban Russian or Belarussian players who publicly supported the war.